Friday, October 31, 2025 No 300 ₹7

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DH

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Air pollution killed over 17L Indians in 2022: Lancet report

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STATUE OF UNITY
एक भारत, श्रेष्ठ भारत

EKTA DIWAS

31 October

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

The grateful Nation
fondly remembers
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
on his 150th Birth Anniversary

Prime Minister
SHRI NARENDRA MODI
will offer floral tributes to the Iron Man of India
and address the Nation in his remembrance

On this Ekta Diwas, let us participate in large numbers in the 'Run for Unity' being organized in our district and strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

EKTA DIWAS EVENTS

- Ekta Parade
- Brass band performances
- Horse, dog, and camel contingents
- Martial arts showcase by women performers
- BSF Dog show (Indigenous Breed)
- Daredevil riders' performance
- School band presentation
- AIR show by the Indian Air Force
- "Loh-Purush" – A Theatrical Presentation Based on the Life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Celebration of Ekta Light Festival
- State exhibitions from 1st to 15th November under Bharat Parv

"Rashtriya Ekta Diwas honours Sardar Patel's invaluable contribution towards unifying the nation. May this day strengthen the bonds of unity in our society."

-Narendra Modi

CBC 19101/13/0022/2526

Date: Friday, 31 October 2025 | Venue: Parade Ground, Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat | Time: 7.00 AM onwards

The event will be broadcast live on DD News

What is Kannada identity in cosmopolitan Bengaluru?

Metrolife spoke to musicians, artistes and writers for their thoughts on the subject ahead of the 69th Kannada Rajyotsava

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

"I came from Mumbai and learned Kannada"

– Arundathi Nag, theatre personality

Kannada is a beautiful language and the people of Karnataka are wonderful people — soft-natured and welcoming. In the tradition of old Karnataka, I hope we continue to welcome people, and the newcomers also respect and maintain the core essence of what it means to belong to a particular land, climate and culture. Respecting, accommodating and making space for each other will make everything easier. It's too beautiful a city, to be obliterated or to change, because of modernisation and overpopulation. I came here from Mumbai and learned Kannada, and people gave me enough time to learn. I speak from that point of view.

"Everyone in Karnataka is a Kannadiga"

– Vasudhendra, writer

As Indians, we have the right to go live in any part of the country. I consider everyone who comes to live in this state a Kannadiga. But it is important to mingle with the local community. By that, I mean, showing love and respect to the culture and the language. That is Kannada identity. And as people born and raised here, our Kannada identity is to be welcoming and inclusive of newcomers. If these two principles are followed, everything else will fall into place.

"We must accept the city as it is"

– Kishore, actor

The way we are trying to define Kannada today, the scope for conflict and politics is high. Kannada has a broader meaning. As important as it is to retain our Kannada identity, it is also important for us to respect the dissolving boundaries. Bengaluru has many non-Kannadigas as well and we must accept the city as it is, with all its challenges. Poornachandra Tejaswi would say, 'One can best express themselves in their mother tongue'. But if our children think they express themselves better in English, we must accept it.

"Need better planning to improve quality for all"

– Bindumalini Narayanaswamy, musician

If there is better planning to accommodate and improve the quality of lives of everyone then conflicts arising around identity will not be there. The pressure of saturation and poor quality of lives and the imbalance of resource distribution surely causes concern for who is benefiting at whose cost, who is taking care, and who is exploiting. Better management I feel is the key.

"I don't want my language to be lost"

– Vasuki Vaibhav, singer, music composer

I grew up reading Tejaswi, Da Ra Bendre and Girish Karnad and I have been working in Kannada theatre for about 27 years now. Today in my own city, I feel my language is being sidelined. At the same time, the city is also growing and I'm curious about how it will pan out. In this city of mixed cultures, I do not want my language to be lost.

The younger generation thinks speaking in Kannada or listening to Kannada music is not fashionable. Today, the primary language is English and kids are exposed to world literature and music. I hope they learn to appreciate Kannada.

B'lurean recreates iconic locations with 3D prints

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The 3D miniature of the unfinished Ejipura flyover.

A 33-year-old has been creating 3D miniatures of iconic Bengaluru locations, such as Vidyarthi Bhavan, CTR and even the unfinished Ejipura flyover. He aims to pay tribute to these spots that are integral to people's experience of the city.

Parth Jha

Parth Jha, a marketing and brand management professional, moved to Bengaluru from Madhya Pradesh in 2023. A self-taught artist, he began experimenting with 3D printing two years ago. On a trip to Japan last year, he was taken by the profusion of miniatures of popular tourist spots and other quintessential features of that country.

"The quality was top-notch and aesthetically beautiful. This is something lacking in India. A majority of the miniature collectibles here are shoddily made," Jha explains.

Jha's first miniature was a replica of the original Mavalli Tiffin Rooms near Lalbagh. He posted it on his Instagram page @shrinkray.studio in September and received an overwhelming response. Since then, Jha has been flooded with ideas and suggestions from his followers. "I think I have about 30-40 ideas of locations across different localities," he says. Other miniatures that he has completed include that of Dodda Ganapathi, as seen in the Dodda Ganapathi temple in Basavanagudi, and the idol in the Prasanna Veeranjaneya Swamy temple in Mahalakshmi Layout.

Jha first conceptualises and then 3D sculpts each piece. It is then prototyped and finally hand-painted. "It involves a lot of trial and error. Each of these 45 mm miniatures take me about seven days to a month to complete," he shares.

A replica of Vidyarthi Bhavan.

Painting the replicas is another skill Jha has been forced to acquire. The paints he uses are imported because the kind of paints the art requires are unavailable in India.

"They are highly pigmented and of superior quality. With a single coat you get a smooth and thin finish. The Indian paints I have tried tend to be thick and clumpy," he shares.

Sometimes, he posts the unfinished prototypes on his page to ask his followers what he has missed.

Giving the example of the Veena Stores replica, he said he added a platform just outside the storefront, a water filter and a chutney stand after receiving inputs from them.

He notes that old Bengalureans speak of these iconic locations with pride and nostalgia, and he hopes to keep those memories alive.

POPCORN

Kachda re...

Our municipal authorities have come up with a fun new idea. They pour garbage back at the doorstep of habitual offenders who throw their kachda on the streets. This, they think, will shame our trash citizens into becoming clean citizens. Don't know how these shaming things work out here, with law breakers routinely getting elected and becoming law makers. Our civic administrators struggle to come up with catchy names for their programmes — garbage, as you know, doesn't exactly smell of roses for it to inspire poetry. But in this case, here is a suggestion. Call the programme 'Aap ki kasam.' Word of the day for those who say 'Kannad gottilla.' Kasa is trash.

EVENTS

Carpet exhibition
Carpet collector Danny Mehra will give a walkthrough of rare 19th-century tribal and nomadic carpets from his personal collection on October 31, 10.30 am onwards, at Gallery Sumukha, Wilson Garden. Call 93804 20041.

Talk on Mithila art
David Szanton, president of the Ethnic Art Foundation, will talk about the evolution of Mithila paintings and its contemporary practitioners on October 31, 5 pm, at Museum of Art & Photography, Kasturba Road. Call 6933 4100.

Meetup for Potterheads
Sonali Bhatia will host a meetup for fans of the Harry Potter series on November 2, 11 am, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Tickets online.

CITY MIX

Tribute concert for maestro C R Vyas

A concert to mark the 101st birth anniversary of the legendary Hindustani vocalist and composer C R Vyas will be held next week. The show, titled 'Suran Mein Ras Tum Ho', is being presented as part of the Sri K K Murthy Memorial Music Festival 2025. Suresh Bapat, Anuja Zokarkar, Noopur Gadgil, and Kedar Kelkar will render the bandishes composed by the late artiste. The recitals will be accompanied by a narration by his son, Shashi Vyas.

November 8, 7 pm, Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. Tickets online.

Guided walk to decode Anthropocene

The ongoing 'Calorie' exhibition at Science Gallery, Ballari Road, explores the links between human activity and planetary health, from the impact of climate on monocultures to global labour exploitation. On November 2, 5.30 pm, Ayati and Vinaya Krishnan will lead a walkthrough of the exhibits to reflect on the challenges of the Anthropocene. It refers to the era in which human activity is the dominant force shaping the planet's climate and environment.

To register, visit calorie.scigalleryblr.org

Advent of weight loss shots: Docs sound a note of caution

Ozempic, now approved for use in India for diabetics, and Mounjaro are not for all, they say

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

This Rajajinagar drug store has sold two units of Mounjaro in the past two months.

A pilot recently consulted dietitian Edwina Raj after his endocrinologist prescribed Mounjaro, a diabetes drug also known to aid weight loss. Her task was to design a nutrition plan for him. "He was pre-diabetic. Because of long working hours and limited access to home-cooked meals, he struggled to make lifestyle changes to manage his weight. That's why the doctor put him on the drug," she says.

Doctors in Bengaluru are prescribing injectable drugs like Mounjaro (tirzepatide) and Wegovy (semaglutide) to patients unable to sustain their weight-loss efforts. But though the medication accelerates weight loss significantly, it must still be paired with healthy eating and exercise to prevent muscle loss, and requires "mental preparation" to cope with side effects such as nausea and constipation, they say.

Edwina recalls a cautionary case. A woman with fatty liver disease lost 12 kg in four months after an online physician prescribed a weight-loss drug for her obesity and PCOS, which were affecting her fertility chances. But she also suffered severe hair fall and muscle loss. Her gastroenterologist eventually recommended she get a nutrition plan to help her lose weight safely.

These injections, given once weekly, work by inducing a feeling of fullness and slowing stomach emptying (a process by which food moves from the stomach to the small intestine), thereby reducing appetite and food intake. But Dr Naresh Bhat, gastroenterology and hepatology expert, says about a third of his patients cannot tolerate the fullness and accompanying nausea. "In two or three cases, the medication had to be stopped," he says.

Consultant dietitian Jayashree Bafna recalls a referral from an endocrinologist. The woman, in her late 20s, was mildly obese, pre-diabetic, and had thyroid complications and was put on a weight-loss drug. "I suggested balanced one-pot meals and snacks like khakra, roasted chana, makhana, and buttermilk. But she did not follow through and later complained of heaviness and stomach pain. She has not returned."

Discontinuing these medications can also lead to some weight regain, adds Dr Chitra Selvan, professor and head of endocrinology at a medical college. Cost is another concern. Mounjaro (5 mg, 0.5 ml solution) costs around Rs 4,000, while Wegovy, a pre-filled injectable pen, is priced at about Rs 16,000 per dose. Ozempic (semaglutide) has been approved for adults with type 2 diabetes but isn't available in the market yet.

Right candidates

Dr Chitra says such drugs are meant for people with obesity (BMI of 30 kg/m² or more) or those who are overweight (BMI between 27 and 30 kg/m²) and have Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, sleep apnea, or fatty liver.

Endocrinologist Dr Mahesh D M has prescribed Mounjaro to both diabetic and non-diabetic patients — including those who gained weight during the pandemic or after pregnancy. He says portion control is key on this journey, but some struggle to adjust. "Two of my patients continued eating out of habit despite feeling full and ended up vomiting. If half a chapati makes them feel full, that's where they should stop," he says. He also advises such patients to drink at least two litres of water daily and avoid aerated drinks, fried foods, and alcohol.

Still skeptical

In the past three months, sports nutritionist Deepika Vasudevan has been approached by six people seeking prescriptions. "When I explain that I am not authorised to prescribe it and outline the risks, some ask for supplements instead," she says. One man, however, was insistent. "He didn't believe in nutrition plans. He wanted a quick fix because he had been chubby since childhood," she says. Most others were women hoping to shed post-pregnancy weight. The fear in the medical fraternity is that injections such as Ozempic and Mounjaro could become 'vanity drugs', used for cosmetic rather than health reasons. But not too many are demanding the injections for weight loss. The steep prices and fear of side effects may be holding people back. One pre-diabetic woman, for instance, changed her mind about taking a weight-loss drug after reading about potential side effects and instead approached a dietitian to make amends to her lifestyle.

Deepika has come across high-net-worth individuals who have tried these medications. "But the rapid weight loss leads them to seek skin-tightening procedures to address sagging as they lose a lot of muscle," she says.

Grey areas

While interest is high on social media, Dr Bhat says key clinical questions remain. "We still don't fully know who should take it, for how long, and how to manage the side effects," he says.

Dr Praveen Kumar, clinical pharmacologist, warns that as demand rises and prices fall, unsupervised use could become widespread, potentially replacing the role of a balanced diet. "Poor eating habits can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease," he adds.

Reality check

All these are prescription medications. For a reality check, *Metrolife* visited pharmacies and also tried ordering these weight-loss drugs online. They refused to dispense the medication without a prescription. Dr Kumar says, "A valid prescription must carry the doctor's name and registration number."

Tonight: Women's freedom walk

TEAM METROLIFE

In a bid to reclaim public spaces, a group of women will walk together at night on Friday. The walk will start at 9.30 pm near Vidhana Soudha and continue past midnight.

The walk is part of an initiative called Women Walk at Midnight. The Bengaluru chapter was started by Prithvi Hegde in 2019. According to Prithvi Hegde, the initiative draws inspiration from the Nirbhaya movement and the famous words of social activist Maya Krishna Rao: "In the day, at midnight, or at 3 in the morning, I [we] will walk." It began in Delhi in 2016 as an act of "collective courage" and has since grown into a global movement.

In Bengaluru, these walks have previously been held in Koramangala, Malleswaram, and M G Road. The initiative took a break in 2023 and is being revived this year, "fuelled by an overwhelming wave of interest".

They haven't sought any "formal mechanisms for safety precautions". "It's just a walk, and we find safety in walking together," Prithvi says.

Registrations for this walk are now closed, but for future events, visit @wewalkatmidnight on Instagram or womenwalkatmidnight.com.

Techie creates app to simplify college hunt for students

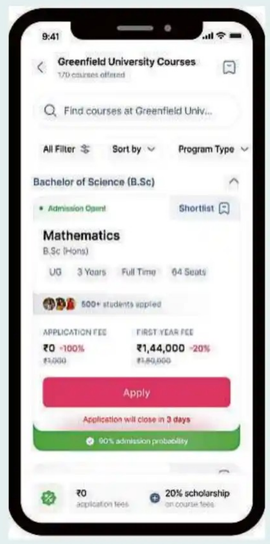
It contains information about more than 100 institutes, their eligibility criteria and application forms

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Nanjunda Prasad, a software developer from Bengaluru, has created an app that makes the process of applying to colleges faster and more efficient. Called Appli, it provides access to information about multiple Indian colleges and universities, including their courses, eligibility criteria, and application forms. It is free to use.

When it was launched in March, Appli featured 75 colleges, mostly from Bengaluru, with details about their undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The number has now grown to over 100 institutions, including several outside the city. The app has also expanded to include pre-university college admission applications.

Prasad says the idea for Appli came when he was helping his daughter apply to colleges and realised how "fragmented" the process was. "We had to visit multiple colleges just to get their forms and fee details. And while some universities have this information online, it's often not updated," he says, adding that what used to take six weeks of research and travel can now be done in a day.



A screengrab of the app.

The app also simplifies the application process. Students create a single profile containing all the information colleges typically require. Appli integrates with DigiLocker through patented technology, securely retrieving the necessary documents depending on each college's requirements. A convenience fee of Rs 25 is charged per application, in addition to the institution's application fee.

Prasad says the platform reduces confusion and misinformation that often affects applicants, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 towns.

"Since students from smaller towns often have to move elsewhere for higher studies, an online platform like this improves access," he explains, adding that they are improving visibility for students from different backgrounds.

He recalls how one student who wanted to study criminology assumed CLAT (Common Law Admission Test) was mandatory because it was mentioned on a college website. "She later found out it wasn't needed," he says.

In another instance, "four friends from Mandya used Appli to shortlist Bengaluru colleges that matched their budget and location."

He says the platform also benefits universities by helping them reach a more diverse pool of applicants.

Prasad believes India already has world-class educational institutions; students just need clear, updated information in one place. "Our mission is to ensure no student feels the need to go abroad to study just because of a lack of information," he says.

Free to download on both Android and iOS.

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The Power of Good

US, China agree to one-year truce in trade war

Page 11

Hostage crisis ends with rescue of 17 kids, 2 adults

Culprit killed; kids were lured in the name of audition

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Mumbai witnessed dramatic and tense moments on Thursday after a 50-year-old man took 19 people, including 17 children, as hostages inside a studio in the Powai area of the metropolitan city.

In a swift and joint operation that spanned nearly three hours, the fire brigade, local police and security forces rescued the hostages. The hostage-taker, identified as Rohit Arya, sustained bullet injuries during the operation and died at a hospital later.

"All the children are safe and united with their parents," said Satyanarayan Choudhary, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order).

Arya had called the children to the RA Studio at the Mahaveer Classic building on the pretext of auditioning for a web series.

In a video, Arya was heard saying: "I am Rohit Arya and instead of dying by suicide, I have made a plan and I am holding some children hostage here. I don't have many demands; I have very simple demands, moral demands, ethical demands, and a few questions...I want to talk to some people, ask them questions. But I want these answers. I don't want anything else. I'm not a terrorist, nor do I demand a lot of money, and I certainly don't want anything immoral."

▸ Hostage, Page 3B
Related reports, Page 6

Tense moments

- Incident unfolded around 1.30 pm
- 17 kids, including boys & girls, were in the building for 'audition'
- Hostage-taker was carrying air gun & chemicals
- Fire brigade opens path for cops to rescue hostages
- Hostage-taker receives bullet injuries
- He was declared dead at hospital

Hostage-taker Arya

In latest twist, HC stays FIR in Dharmasthala case

Activists who had initially backed FIR seek its quashing, allege SIT harassment

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

In yet another dramatic turn in the Dharmasthala 'mass burials' case, the Karnataka High Court on Thursday stayed the FIR in the sensational case after the four activists who had backed the registration of the very FIR sought its quashing.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz passed the interim order after hearing a petition filed by activists Girish Mattannavar, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, T Jayant and Vittala Gowda.

During the hearing, the court questioned why a separate FIR had not been registered against the complaint-witness in the case. It stayed the FIR after observing that multiple notices had been issued to the petitioners and noting the concerns that magistrate's permission before registering a cognisable offence was not proper.

It ordered notices to the respondents — Home Department, DG&IGP and the SIT — directing them to file their responses. The matter has been posted for November 12.

Opposing the petition, the government counsel said the petitioners were "taking the judiciary for a ride".

The HC's decision came days after Home Minister G Parameshwara said that he had directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to submit the final report in the case.

The FIR was initially registered at the Dharmasthala police station under Section 211(a) of the BNS (failure to provide information to a public servant when a person is legally bound to do so), based on the witness-complainant's claim that he had buried bodies in and around the temple town between 1995 and 2014.

However, after finding no evidence to support the allegations, the SIT arrested the whistleblower on August 23, by adding relevant sections of BNS related to perjury.

The SIT, in a subsequent statement before a magistrate, stated that the witness-complainant confessed he had been coerced by Thimarody and others to make "false" claims.

Thimarody and other activists then approached the HC challenging the FIR.

They argued that since Section 211 (a) of the BNS pertains to a cognisable offence, prior permission from a magistrate should have been taken before registering the FIR. They also contended that the magistrate's permission in this case was "improper as it was bereft of any reasoning".

The petitioners' advocates further alleged that some of them were made to wait for hours in the SIT office after being summoned.

Additional State Public Prosecutor BN Jagadeesha said none of the petitioners had appeared before the SIT and pointed out the FIR was initially registered at the instance of the petitioners.

Chronology of the sensational case

June 22, 2025 Letter from Bengaluru-based advocates about an individual who intended to go public over the alleged mass burials

July 3 45-year-old complainant-witness, a former sanitation worker, files a complaint with police alleging heinous crimes in Dharmasthala

July 4 Dharmasthala police register a case under Section 211(a) of BNS after obtaining permission from court

July 19 Govt sets up SIT

Complainant-witness with the police in Dharmasthala. DH FILE PHOTO

July 29 SIT begins exhumations

Aug 22 Complainant-witness arrested by SIT for perjury

Oct 29 Forensic report confirms that all three sets of skeletal remains were of male individuals

"The law has to take its own course. Let the SIT report come. We'll see what's in it. Truth and Dharma must survive.

DK Shivakumar
Dy CM

As long tunnel may take time, Hebbal shortcut may get push

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is likely to put the controversial 16.75-km tunnel road project "on hold temporarily" in view of growing opposition from several quarters, and instead prioritise the construction of a shorter 2-km tunnel proposed beneath the Hebbal flyover.

This is also being done to assess the ground realities and show if it can truly build a tunnel road in Bengaluru given its complex geological conditions.

TUNNEL TANGLE

This is the thinking even as Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has been vocal in his defence for the underground road project to decongest Bengaluru's traffic.

The short tunnel will have entry and exit points opposite Esteem Mall and before Mehkri Circle, while the long tunnel connects Hebbal and Central Silk Board

According to sources, the tenders for the long tunnel — which have already been extended thrice — may not be finalised soon. Top official sources however insisted that the 16.75-km project is not dropped but they believe it could take at least one year to formally take off.

The move comes amid objections to the project's environmental and urban impact, including the proposed acquisition of six acres of Lalbagh garden, an exit point near Sankey Tank, and major construction disruptions at Hebbal.

▸ Tunnel, Page 3B

The short tunnel at Hebbal may be fast-tracked.

Rs 2,150-cr GBA works okayed

The state Cabinet on Thursday approved a package worth Rs 2,141.57 crore for infrastructure and other development works in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area.
Details on Page 3

BSWML 'shames' litterbugs, dumps trash at their doorsteps

BENGALURU, DHNS

Litterbugs in several neighbourhoods across Bengaluru woke up to see piles of garbage dumped outside their homes on Thursday.

In a first-of-its-kind move that has received mixed reactions, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) emptied the entire load of garbage from auto tippers at the doorsteps of 218 houses as a warning to habitual litterbugs.

While BSWML termed the action an enforcement and awareness drive to make Bengaluru "free of garbage blackspots", some citizens did not approve of the idea, stating it reeked of high-headedness and was arbitrary.

▸ Garbage, Page 3B

Garbage dumped in front of a house in Bengaluru on Thursday.

MLA looks to ride on Nitish's charm, again

Hari Narayan Singh is eyeing a record 10th victory in the Bihar elections. He has won thrice from Harnaut, under which CM Nitish Kumar's ancestral village Kalyan Bigha falls, but owes his wins to the CM's popularity, reports Gyanendra Keshri.

Do migrants see new hope in Jan Suraaj?

There is a certain curiosity about Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj party. Especially the ones who have travelled outside Bihar in search of livelihood. It's Jan Suraaj's first innings, and the electorate remains sceptical, reports Sumit Pande.

BIHAR VOTES

Page 7

Retd CFO bribe post: 2 cops suspended

A sub-inspector and a constable in Bengaluru have been suspended after a retired PSU official spoke of his harrowing experience involving harassment and bribery following the death of his daughter.
Details on Page 3B

Techie orders phone worth Rs 1.9L, gets tile

The joy of ordering a new mobile phone worth Rs 1.86 lakh turned into a nightmare for a 43-year-old software engineer from Yelachenahalli after he found a piece of tile inside the product's box instead of the expensive phone.
Details on Page 2

Centre plans AI in curriculum, forms panel

The Centre will introduce a curriculum on AI from Class 3 onwards, with the CBSE forming an expert panel to design the curriculum for the 2026-27 academic session.
Details on Page 7

US automatic work permit extension ends

WASHINGTON, PTI: The Trump administration has rolled back a Biden-era policy decision and made re-vetting mandatory for foreign non-immigrant visa holders seeking extension of work permits, a move that is likely to impact Indians as well.

In May 2022, the Biden administration had amended rules that provided for an automatic 540-day extension of EADs without any verification process once the applicants filed new applications for renewal of the employment authorisation.

The 2022 decision was taken in view of about 1.5 million pending requests for work permits at the time.
Details on Page 11
Chabahar waiver extended, Page 12

India's historic chase stuns favourite Aussies

Jemimah Rodrigues struck a match-winning unbeaten 127 as India pulled off a record chase of 339 to stun defending champions Australia and reach the Women's World Cup final in Navi Mumbai on Thursday.

Partnering skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (89) in a 167-run stand, Rodrigues guided India home with nine balls to spare.

See page 14

HOW INDIA TAMED AUSSIES

- India ended seven-time champions Australia's 15-match unbeaten streak at the Women's World Cup.
- Jemimah Rodrigues struck her maiden ODI century with a match-winning unbeaten 127.
- The chase of 339 became the highest-ever successful pursuit in Women's ODI and World Cup history.
- Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur contributed a vital 89 in a 167-run third-wicket stand with Rodrigues.
- India secured their third appearance in a Women's ODI World Cup final.

BIG CAT WALK

Nagarahole tiger treks 360 km to Uttara Kannada

BENGALURU, DHNS

A male sub-adult tiger from Nagarahole tiger reserve has travelled more than 360 km (radial distance) to reach forest areas of Karwar division in Uttara Kannada district. The 20-month journey is said to be one of longest dispersal journeys of a sub-adult tiger to be recorded in Karnataka in recent times.

The tiger's journey from the southernmost part of the state to the north-west tip of Karnataka also highlights the importance of conserving corridors for safe dispersal of tigers to ensure balancing of tiger population in protected areas and genetic diversification.

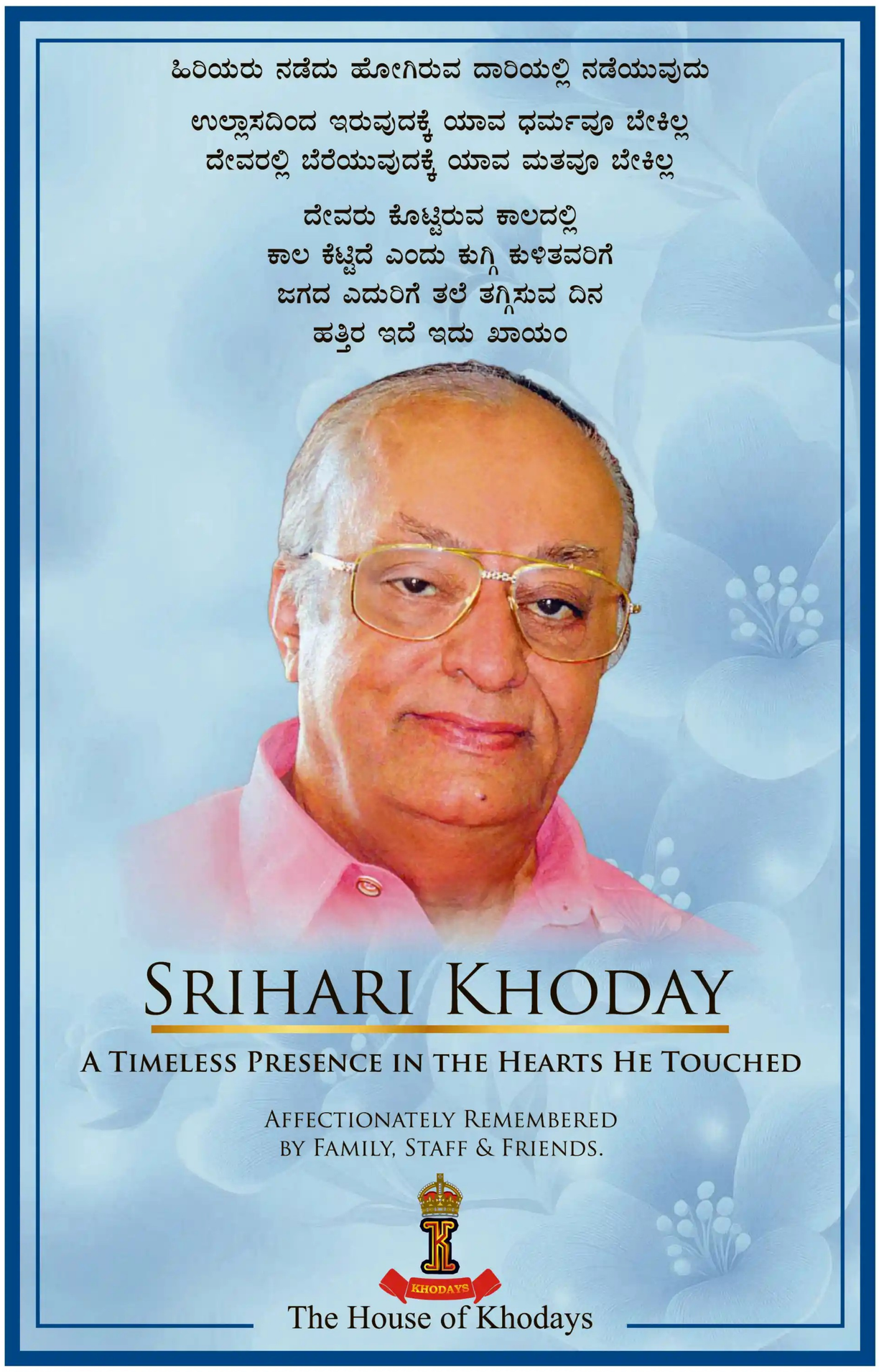
Despite the corridor being highly fragmented, the dispersal tiger, in search of territory, has 'wandered' through protected and human dominated areas without coming into conflict with humans. Forest officials believe that the tiger could further travel north towards either Kali Tiger Reserve or into Goa/Maharashtra via Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary.

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

The tiger was first photographed in Nagarahole tiger reserve in 2023 and recently it was photographed in Karwar division. Officials say the tiger may be four or five years old now. Karwar division officials confirmed the identity of the tiger through state's tiger data base.

"We are not sure of the route the tiger might have taken to reach the Karwar division. However, this proves that there exists a safe corridor for tigers between Nagarahole and Uttara Kannada through which they can reach KTR or other protected areas without coming into contact with humans," says Karwar Deputy Conservator of Forest C Ravishankar.

▸ Tiger, Page 3B



Can Bengaluru be made walkable again?

Experts, officials discuss street design, community participation

BENGALURU, DHNS

Jana Urban Space Foundation (JUSP) and Janaagraha jointly convened 'Walkable Bengaluru', a roundtable on enhancing walkability, at Sabha Blr on Kamaraj Road on Thursday.

The event brought together senior government officials, civic practitioners, and community representatives to explore how a walkable city could ease congestion, boost women's workforce participation, and enhance safety.

Despite Bengaluru's population growing by 62% between 2011 and 2022, the city's share of walking and cycling trips dropped sharply — from 35% in 2011 to 10% in 2022.

To reverse this trend, Janaagraha proposed a five-step framework to create a walkable Bengaluru:

- Legally mandate road design standards such as TenderSURE and IRC 86/103.
- Amend cadre and recruitment rules to institutionalise the BBMP's urban design cell across all five corporations.
- Reform tendering and procurement by preparing model tender documents.
- Introduce certification-based skilling for municipal engineers and contractors.
- Develop financing and procurement strategies for city-wide implementation.

Students are forced to walk on a damaged pavement amid poor footpath conditions. FILE PHOTO

The roundtable featured participants, including Basavaraj Kabade and Lokesh Mahadevaiah, Chief Engineers of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA); GT Prabhakara Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC; V Ravichandar, Member, Brand Bengaluru Committee; Magizhan Selvan, CEO, Namma Yatri; Arun Pai, Founder, Bangalore Walks; and Naresh Narasimhan, Co-founder, MOD Foundation.

The session was moderated by Srikanth Viswanathan, Executive Director, JUSP, and CEO of Janaagraha.

Discussions centered on street design, implementation, technology, traffic management, and community participation.

"We have to make Bengaluru a truly walkable city. We have taken several initiatives in this direction — the first and most important being the TenderSURE concept. We have implemented these roads across most of the CBD areas and are now planning to extend them further so people can walk without obstruction," said Lokesh Mahadevaiah, Chief Engineer, GBA.

The organs transported via Namma Metro under the supervision of a medical team. PHOTO: NARAYANA HEALTH CITY

Namma Metro transports heart, lungs for transplant

BENGALURU, DHNS

Namma Metro on Thursday facilitated the swift transport of a pair of lungs and a heart from Sparsh Hospital, Goraguntepalya, to two different hospitals in Bengaluru for transplant surgeries.

The heart was ferried from Goraguntepalya to Banashankari between 9.34 am and 10.15 am, covering 17 stations in 41 minutes, and was delivered at Aster RV Hospital.

The lungs were transported from Goraguntepalya to Bommasandra between 10.05 am and 11.13 am, covering 31 stations across two metro lines in an hour and eight minutes. They reached Narayana Health City, where surgery began immediately.

According to the hospital, the 30–33 km journey took 61 minutes despite the weekday rush hour. A five-member transplant team and a BMRCL home guard accompanied the organs in both operations.

A senior BMRCL official said security and station staff coordinated the transport seamlessly, ensuring no time was lost.

"Our security department and station officials accompanied the medical team throughout. Passengers were requested to vacate the last coach two stations before the stop to make way for the team and the boxes carrying the organs. Only the regular passenger fare was charged," the official said.

3rd successful attempt

This marks the third successful organ transport via Namma Metro. A liver was ferried in August and a heart in September.

Wildlife smuggling: Man nabbed after 3-month probe

BENGALURU, DHNS: After a three-month investigation, officials of the Devanahalli Range, with support from customs personnel at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), arrested a man who had attempted to smuggle nearly 900 Indian star tortoises to Malaysia in August.

Forest officials said the accused, identified as Abdul Rahim Mohammed Kasim, had tried to transport 877 live Indian star tortoises — an endangered species — on August 6. However, he abandoned the bag and fled the airport before boarding his flight.

Forest officers launched an investigation after discovering the massive consignment of tortoises. CCTV footage from the airport was obtained to trace the accused and his network involved in the wildlife smuggling racket.

On Wednesday, Devanahalli Range Forest officer Nagarjun N and his team, acting on credible information, arrested Kasim with assistance from customs officials. Kasim was travelling from Abu Dhabi and was detained on arrival at the airport.

"Besides his passport and ticket, CCTV footage from August and other evidence were verified with the help of customs officers. He was produced before the magistrate and remanded in 14-day judicial custody," said a senior official.

Authorities said further investigation is underway to identify others involved in the illegal wildlife trade.

Garbage-dumping drive to be held every month, says BSWML

Cites favourable feedback from staff and marshals

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Facing criticism over the growing number of garbage blackspots, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has decided to continue its controversial "garbage-dumping" drive once a month.

Officials said the extended interval was necessary as the drive targets only households that, despite having door-to-door collection, continue dumping waste in public places.

"We initially planned it for just one day, but our staff and marshals shared positive feedback from the ground. Hence, we will conduct it once a month going forward. During the next drive, we plan to target commercial establishments, including meat shops," said Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer of BSWML.

A marshal who took part in the drive said the initiative had a human touch. "Some residents do not treat garbage workers as humans. When waste is dumped in public spaces, it becomes hard to clear. There is dignity when waste is handed over properly," he said, adding that the same workers use their hands to eat food.

Fines collected from garbage-dumping drive

Constituency	No of cases	Penalty
Bangalore South	8	Rs 11,500
Bommanahalli	8	Rs 18,200
Basavanagudi	7	Rs 6,000
BTM Layout	8	Rs 9,700
Byatarayanapura	7	Rs 5,500
Chamarajpet	8	Rs 5,800
Chikpete	5	Rs 16,500
CV Ramanagar	10	Rs 14,100
Dasarahalli	9	Rs 10,500
Gandhinagar	5	Rs 3,100
Govindarajanagar	4	Rs 7,000
Hebbal	1	Rs 2,000
Jayanagar	8	Rs 18,500
KR Puram	25	Rs 24,900
Mahadevapura	11	Rs 9,000
Mahalaksmi Layout	7	Rs 20,500
Malleswaram	7	Rs 13,000
Padmanabhanagar	12	Rs 24,500
Pulakeshinagar	14	Rs 5,100
Rajajinagar	1	Rs 1,000
RR Nagar	9	Rs 7,100
Sarvagnanagar	9	Rs 3,400
Shantinagar	6	Rs 9,500
Vijayanagar	17	Rs 11,600
Yelahanka	4	Rs 5,000
Yeshwantpur	6	Rs 14,000

How are houses identified?

Officials said marshals monitoring solid waste management activities keep a close watch on blackspot areas.

When residents are caught dumping garbage, marshals trace them to their homes and mark repeat offenders. Only such households are selected for the garbage-dumping exercise.

However, an officer admitted that some houses may have been listed even if they dumped waste only once or twice. He also acknowledged that those who dispose of garbage from vehicles or areas not under surveillance might escape detection.

Officials maintained that the initiative is part of a larger enforcement drive to assess garbage contractors, who are paid around Rs 50 crore a month to maintain cleanliness. If waste collection frequency remains poor, the BSWML plans to deduct payments based on complaints received.

'Rare' glitch disrupts metro services during rush hour

BENGALURU, DHNS: A "rare" technical glitch in power supply disrupted metro train services on the Purple and Green lines during the rush hour on Thursday morning, officials said.

A fault in the circuit wring that draws power from the third rail halted a Whitefield-bound Purple Line train shortly after it left Vijayanagar around 9.15 am.

"The train couldn't be moved in any direction for quite some time. After a lot of tweaks, it was eventually taken back to Vijayanagar, where passengers were deboarded. An empty train was also sent right behind it as a precaution to evacuate passengers if the first one halted again," a senior BMRCL official told *DH*.

"It was a rare glitch. We suspect short circuit, but are still investigating."

Train services between Challaghatta and Majestic were temporarily stopped. As a cascading effect, train services on the Green Line also ran late.

Train services on the Purple Line up to Mysuru Road were normalised at 10.15 am, while services between Mysuru Road and Challaghatta were restored by 10.45 am, according to the BMRCL.

A passenger boarding a metro train at Kadugodi Tree Park after 10 am faced anxious moments after the display board showed the next train was after 38 minutes, against the usual headway of seven minutes.

However, the issue was resolved soon after, and he got a train within the next few minutes.

Residents say dumping garbage outside offenders' homes sends wrong message

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Citizen groups and Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) have criticised Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited's (BSWML) 'Kasa Surisuva Habba' — literally translated as the garbage-dumping festival — calling it a public relations stunt that ignores the city's waste management failures.

On Thursday, BSWML workers dumped garbage outside 200 houses whose residents had allegedly been disposing of waste in public spaces.

"This is the wrong way to send a message for an awareness campaign. Retributive justice does not send the right message. Those guilty should have been fined, and their photos, with faces visible, could have been shared on social media. Instead, this initiative has only doubled the work for pourakarmikas," said Nitin Seshadri, secretary, Koramangala 3rd Block RWA.

Zibi Jamal of Whitefield Rising said the drive was unfair when the city's waste collection itself remained unreliable.

"No one wants to carry their garbage looking for black spots to dump it at — it is inconvenient and unpleasant. The agency should look at the root cause — missed or mistimed pickups. Maybe multiple collection rounds or community bins in convenient spots could help. Even if segregation remains a challenge, it is better than uncollected garbage piling up across the city," she said.

Anjali Saini, also from Whitefield Rising, pointed to the shortage of waste-handling infrastructure.

"We do not have enough dry waste collection centres. Nor are there enough auto tippers for the growing population.

"If a waste collector's auto gets filled after four lanes, he ends up skipping the other six," she said.

Residents from RT Nagar, Sultanpalya, Adugodi, and Mathikere voiced similar complaints.

"Sometimes waste collectors do not turn up for days, saying salaries are pending. When they do come, they often leave garbage scattered. Some even arrive before 6 am, when most residents are asleep," said Arjun Mahesh, an RT Nagar resident.

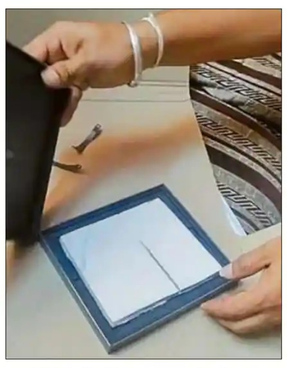
Techie orders Rs 1.86-lakh phone, gets a tile instead

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 43-year-old software engineer from Yelachenahalli had a rude shock after receiving a piece of tile inside the box of a Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 7 phone he ordered online for Rs 1.86 lakh.

The victim, Premanand, has filed a police complaint. An FIR has been registered under sections 318(4) (cheating) and 319 (cheating by personation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Section 66D (cheating by personation using computer resources) of the Information Technology Act.

The FIR stated that Premanand ordered the phone on October 14 from Amazon and paid online using his credit card. He received the order details and tracking information as usual.

At 4.16 pm on October 19, the package was delivered. Premanand recorded a video while unboxing it and found only a square piece of white tile inside instead of the expensive smartphone.



The victim recorded an unboxing video, only to find a square piece of white tile inside instead of the expensive smartphone.

He filed a complaint with the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and later approached the police on October 19 to register an FIR.

A probe is underway.

Engineering student murdered by friend over gold ornament theft

BENGALURU, DHNS: An engineering student was allegedly murdered by his friend following a row over a gold ornament theft in Konanakunte.

Police said the accused, identified as Preetham, 19, had planned to buy a second-hand bike by selling his mother's mangalsutra. However, when he went to a pawn shop, he realised the ornament was fake.

Rahul, the victim

Enraged and desperate for money, he robbed a two-wheeler from the victim.

The deceased, Rahul GD (20), a resident of Chunchaghatta, was a fifth-semester student at a private engineering college in Hulimavu.

Preetham, who worked as an office boy at a private firm and lived in Krishnappa Layout, was arrested soon after the incident came to light.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Preetham had stolen his mother's mangalsutra a few days earlier to raise money for the bike.

During that period, Rahul had visited Preetham's house several times, leading Preetham's mother, Leela, to suspect Rahul of the theft. A few days later, Rahul reportedly told Leela that he had found her mangalsutra in Preetham's bag. On October 25, Preetham, along with two friends, called Rahul to meet him under the pretext of inviting him for lunch. When Rahul arrived on his two-wheeler, a heated argument broke out between the two over the theft. In a fit of rage, Preetham allegedly stabbed Rahul with a knife and fled the spot.

Locals alerted Rahul's family, who rushed him to a nearby private hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Based on a complaint, Konanakunte police registered a case of murder and arrested Preetham.

'Never heard of Preetham'

Speaking to DH, Rahul's elder sister Apoorva said, "Our family had never heard of Preetham or how he became friends with my brother. We were also unaware of the gold chain theft, as Rahul had not shared anything about it with us. The police have seized the scooter for investigation, as Preetham had taken it away after attacking my brother."

Commuters cheer as Bannerghatta Road reopens after four years

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

After nearly four years of dust-choked diversions and crippling delays, the main carriageway of Bannerghatta Road has reopened, offering major relief to south Bengaluru commuters.

The key stretch from Dairy Circle Junction to the Indian Christian Cemetery near Hosur Road has significantly reduced travel time. The road was closed one way to facilitate the construction of two underground metro stations at Dairy Circle and Lakkasandra under Namma Metro's Pink Line tunnel network.

"My daily commute from JP Nagar to my office near MG Road is instantly down from one hour to just over half an hour now," said Sushma Reddy, a regular commuter.

A senior traffic police officer told *DH*, "While the main flow has improved, we anticipate secondary bottlenecks now that the volume has returned, particularly at key entry points like Dairy Circle. We urge BMRCL and the corporation to prioritise immediate resurfacing and ensure no illegal parking hinders this vehicular flow."

Travel time will significantly reduce from Dairy Circle Junction to Indian Christian Cemetery. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Local residents and small business owners, who bore the brunt of the construction, are demanding quick restoration work for smooth traffic movement.

"There are no proper footpaths for pedestrians who are forced to walk on dusty, pothole roads," said a resident. "For four years, the constant dust and barricades nearly ended my bakery business," said Venkatesh, who owns a shop near the Arekere signal.

Though the road has reopened, the BMRCL must complete final civic touch-ups, rebuild demolished bus shelters, and restore footpaths that remain in poor condition.

The Pink Line (21 km) of Namma Metro, connecting Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara, is on schedule, with the elevated section expected to open by May 2026.

The two-way movement on Bannerghatta Road offers temporary relief until the metro begins serving the thousands who depend on this congested corridor.

Construction worker dies after plank collapses

BENGALURU, DHNS: A construction worker died when carrying out repair works at a four-storey building in Mahadevapura, east Bengaluru, on Thursday, officials said.

Yusuf Shariff (35), from Haveri, sustained grievous injuries after the plank on which he stood collapsed. He died shortly afterwards, while three of his colleagues — Tanuja, Akash and an unidentified person — sustained injuries. They are being treated at a hospital. Police sources said a case of causing death by negligence would likely be filed over allegations of lax safety measures at the building site.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Presidency University: Legal Industry Interface Summit 2025; Day-long panel sessions on mapping legal talent, legal career pathways, technology and ESG, corporate governance and sustainability; Saroj Bohra and others; Varsity premises, Ittagallapura, Rajanukunte; 9.30 am.

Kriya Madhyama: Re-reading Niranjana-release of series; Tejasvi Niranjana, Rajendra Chenni; Souharda, First Floor, CSI Compound, Mission Road; 10.30 am.

AITUC: Foundation Day; Amarjeet Kaur, HV Anantasubbarao and others; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 10.30 am.

Programme: 'Namma Sarkara-Namma Report Card'-An analysis of government's performance over the last two years; TR Raghunandan, Shivasundar and others; Hotel Parag, Rajbhavan Road; 2.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Ranga Samsthana: Workshops on theatre music; MR Satyanarayana, Vanajakshi R Halliyavara and others; Govt First Grade College, Mahalakshmipuram; 10.30 am.

Kannada Sangharsha Samiti: Presentation of awards and remembering SK Karimkhan; B M Sri Kalabhavana, NR Colony; 4.30 pm.

Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation: Nrutya Parampara Utsav and felicitation ceremony; Sevasadana, Malleswaram; 6 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	84%
Sunset (Oct 31)	5:54 pm
Sunrise (Nov 1)	6:13 am
Moonrise	1:15 pm
Moonset	0:09 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Cabinet approves projects worth Rs 2,141 crore in GBA area

Rs 1,241.57 cr for roads in 5 corpns ; Rs 900 cr for ward devpt

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cabinet on Thursday approved a package worth Rs 2,141.57 crore for infrastructure and other development works in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area. This includes Rs 900 crore for ward development and Rs 1,241.57 crore for asphalting arterial and sub-arterial roads across the five municipal corporations.

The development of wards is as per the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP).

Initially, the Urban Development Department (UDD) is said to have sought Rs 1,055 crore, but Rs 900 crore was approved.

According to a document which *DH* has accessed, the Rs 900 crore has been divided between the five municipal corporations as follows: Bengaluru Central City Corporation—Rs 200 crore, Bengaluru East City Corporation—Rs 50 crore, Bengaluru West City Corporation—Rs 267.25 crore, Bengaluru North City Corporation—238 crore and Bengaluru South City Corporation – Rs 144.75 crore.

The initiative to asphalt arterial and sub-arterial roads across the five municipal corporations at a cost of Rs 1,241.57 crore is under the Special Assistance for Capital Investment.

"Citizens are relentlessly criticising the spoilt arterial and sub-arterial roads in the GBA limits. Emergency development will help ease traffic congestion. This will help in achieving the idea of Brand Bengaluru, result in greater investments, help in creating new jobs and consolidating existing ones," a note by the UDD said.

According to documents accessed by *DH*, Rs 1,241.57 crore have been divided between the five corporations as follows — Bengaluru Central City Corporation — Rs 208.65 crore, Bengaluru East City Corporation—Rs 192.18 crore, Bengaluru West City Corporation—Rs 334.62 crore, Bengaluru North City Corporation—Rs 211.12 crore and Bengaluru South City Corporation — Rs 295 crore.

Developing 4 ports

The Cabinet also gave administrative approval to develop four ports — Karwar, Old Mangaluru (Bengre side), Old Mangaluru (city side) and Malpe — through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement under the Renovate Operate Maintain and Transfer (ROMT) at a cost of Rs 40.12 crore.

As per a note, the break up of the planned expenditure is as follows: Karwar port — Rs 20.7 crore, Old Mangaluru (City side) – Rs 6.12 crore, Old Mangaluru (Bengre side)—Rs 8.87 crore and Malpe port—Rs 4.43 crore.

The Cabinet decided to spend Rs 80 crore under the Karnataka Start-up Policy (2022-27). As many as eight technology business incubators will be established with Rs 10 crore for each of the TIBs.

2 ministers spar over Ganga Kalyana; CM intervenes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior ministers Dr H C Mahadevappa and K J George are said to have had a serious argument during the Cabinet meeting on Thursday regarding implementing the Ganga Kalyana Scheme of the state government.

A minister told *DH* that George (Energy Minister) and Mahadevappa (Social Welfare Department Minister) disagreed regarding the role of respective departments in implementing Ganga Kalyana scheme that provides irrigation facilities through borewells, pumps and so on to people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minority communities.

"During the discussion, George said his department will give power connection if the SWD arranged motor and pipeline. To this, Mahadevappa argued that the energy department should provide electricity as well as motor. Both of them stuck to their positions," the minister quoted above said.

CM Siddaramaiah is said to have intervened and pacified the warring ministers. The Cabinet decided to extend the term of the contractors empanelled in 2023 to dig borewells and provide pumpsets to SC and ST candidates selected under Ganga Kalyana scheme till July 2027.

Dr Rajkumar award for Umashree

BEMGALURU, DHNS: The state government on Thursday announced the list of Lifetime Achievement Awards presented for cinema, for the year 2019.

Senior actor, theatre personality and politician Umashree was conferred with the Dr Rajkumar Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented to actors.

N R Nanjunde Gowda who made films like 'Naanu Gandhi' was named the recipient of the Puttanna Kanagal award — lifetime achievement award given to film directors. The Dr Vishnuvardhan award, presented for lifetime contribution to Kannada cinema, was presented to Richard Castelino.

Raghunath C H's 'Belli Tore – Cinema Prabhandagalu' was selected as the best book on cinema. The best short film award went to 'Gule', directed by Srinath S Hadagali.

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Cabinet decides to seek Rs 1,545 cr from Centre for flood relief

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cabinet decided on Thursday to seek Rs 1,545 crore under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) towards damages during the recent floods in North Karnataka.

Addressing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said, "To take up reconstruction of public properties damaged during the heavy rains and floods during the Northeast monsoon, the Cabinet decided to submit a memorandum to the Centre seeking Rs 1,545.23 crore under NDRF through recovery and construction".

Patil explained that alongside crop loss, the recent floods had damaged a lot of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, check dams and public buildings of over Rs 5,000 crore.

However, he pointed out that only Rs 1,545.23 crore could be sought through the NDRF from the Centre.

"There has been a joint inspection in five districts. Soon, within a couple of days, in all such districts, we will provide monetary relief to farmers".

The Cabinet approved seeking technical and management consultation from the Karnataka Strengthening of Coastal Resilience Economy (K–Shore) at a cost of Rs 20.47 crore. K-Shore is a collaboration between the government and the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

"This project aims to reestablish the environment in the Western Ghats and the coastal regions of Karnataka, establishing climate equilibrium and sustainable livelihood," Patil told reporters.

Other decisions

The Cabinet also decided that 2,200 classrooms will be constructed by the Public Works Department (PWD) at a cost of Rs 360 crore. Another decision was to establish the 'Cauvery IT cell' under the Department of Stamps and Registrations for a duration of five years at a cost of Rs 69.13 crore. The minister said the initiative would be for in-house technical development.

Karnataka Golf Association
No.1 Golf Avenue, Kodihalli,
Bengaluru -560008. Tel: 08040090044/41
Website : www.kga.in Email: mem@kga.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed and experienced contractors/manufacturers for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Mono Pole Type Golf Netting System at the KGA Driving Range, Bangalore.

Eligibility:
Firms with proven experience in golf/sports netting projects, ISO 9001 certification, and at least two similar completed works above 100 ft height.

Tender Documents:
The tender document can be collected from the KGA Office, and sealed tender for the "**Golf Netting System (Mono Pole Type)**" should be submitted on or before **05.00PM**, **Monday 10.11.2025** at the following address.

The Hon. Secretary,
Karnataka Golf Association, No.1, Golf Avenue, Kodihalli, Bangalore – 560 008.
For more information: Contact
L. Kumar Phinehas, Purchase department,
Ph: **90361 27668 / 080-40090019**
Email: **purchase1@kga**

Sd/-
Madhur Sood
Hon. Secretary
Date: 30.10.2025

NOTICE FOR ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR TEACHING FACULTY POSTS

The Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, invites applications from eligible personnel for the posts of Professor & Associate Professor on a contract basis in these various disciplines for the proposed Shillong Medical College targeted to be operational during 2025-26 Academic Year:

Department	Professors	Associate Professors
1. Anatomy	Nil	1
2. Physiology	1	1
3. Pharmacology	1	Nil
4. Pathology	1	Nil
5. Microbiology	Nil	1
6. Forensic Medicine	1	Nil
7. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Nil

Applications will be accepted starting from 30th October, 2025 and must be submitted on or before 20th November, 2025 by 05:00 PM under the rolling advertisement process.
For detailed advertisement, including eligibility criteria, application form and other instructions, please visit the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya: https://meghealth.gov.in

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Govt of Meghalaya
Health & Family Welfare Department.

MIPR No. : 2021
Dated : 29/10/2025

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Programme Schedule

DAY 1 | 1 NOV 2025

10 - 10:50 AM	ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ | Inauguration | *Ground Floor Foyer* ನಾಗತಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ರಮೇಶ್ ಅವರಿಂದ | By Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar & M C Ramesh ಪೂಜಾ ಕುಣಿತ, ಸೋಮನ ಕುಣಿತ, ಧ್ವಜಾರೋಹಣ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಡಗೀತೆ | Pooja Kunitha, Somana Kunitha, Flag Hoisting & the State Anthem
11 AM – 12:30 PM	ಮುಂಜಾನೆಯ ರಾಗಗಳು | Morning Melodies | *Auditorium*
11 AM – 12:30 PM	ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ಕಥೆಯ ಹುಡುಕಾಟ | The Great Story Hunt | *Library*
12 PM – 1:30 PM	ಕನ್ನಡ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ | Kannada Gottilla | *Boardroom*
2 PM – 3:30 PM	ಸುತ್ತ ಮುತ್ತ ಗೊತ್ತಾ ? | Sutta Mutta Gotta? | *Hall 1*
3 PM – 4 PM	ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಮಾಯಾಲೋಕ | An Afternoon of Magic | *Library*
3 PM – 4 PM	ಕನ್ನಡ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ | Kannada Gottilla | *Boardroom*
4 PM – 5:30 PM	ಬೀಸೋ ಹಾಡ - ಶ್ರಮಿಕರ ಗೀತೆಗಳು | Beeso Haada - Songs of Labour | *Amphitheatre*
5:30 PM – 6:45 PM	ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬ - #13, ಶ್ರೀಮಾತ, ಸಾಧನಕೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ | Prathibimba - #13, Srimata, Sadhanakeri, Dharwad | *Auditorium*
7:30 PM – 9 PM	ನೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ! | 100 Years of Grooving! | *Auditorium*

DAY 2 | 2 NOV 2025

7:30 AM – 9 AM	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಗ: ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪರಂಪರೆ | Yoga in Karnataka: Concepts and Traditions | *Terrace*
10 AM – 11 AM	ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾವೇರಿ ನದಿ ತೀರದ ಹಾಡುಗಳು | Songs from the Banks of Krishna and Kaveri | *Amphitheatre*
11 AM – 12:30 PM	ಹಂಪಿಯ ಕಾಣೆಯಾದ ಕಲ್ಲು ಗಳು | The Missing Rocks of Hampi | *Library*
11:30 AM – 1 PM	ಕನ್ನಡ ಚಿತ್ರರಂಗದ ಸ್ವರ್ಣಯುಗ | The Golden Era of Kannada Cinema | *Auditorium*
2 PM – 3:30 PM	ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಕನ್ನಡ ಅಕ್ಷರಶೈಲಿ | Digital Kannada Fonts | *Library*
3 PM – 4:30 PM	ಇಳಿದು ಬಾ ತಾಯೆ | Ilidu Baa Taaye | *Auditorium*
3 PM – 4:30 PM	ಚಿತ್ತಾರ - ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಜಾನಪದ ಕಲೆ | Chittara Folk Art for Kids | *Library*
5 PM – 6:30 PM	ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಕನ್ನಡ ಅಕ್ಷರಶೈಲಿ | Digital Kannada Fonts | *Boardroom*
5:30 PM – 7 PM	ಕೃಷ್ಣೆ - ಕಾವೇರಿಯರ ಹರಿವಿನ ಬೆರಗು | Wondrous Flow of Krishna and Kaveri | *Amphitheatre*
7:30 PM – 9 PM	ವಾಸು ದೀಕ್ಷಿತ್ ಕಲೆಕ್ಟಿವ್ | Vasu Dixit Collective | *Auditorium*

ಎರಡೂ ದಿನಗಳು | ON BOTH DAYS

- ಸ್ಮಾರಕಗಳ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳು — Exhibitions of Monuments
- ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರು ಮತ್ತು ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳು — Exhibitions on Women Vachana Poets and Wildlife
- ಕಲಾ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ — Art Showcase
- ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಮೂಲೆ — Book Corner
- ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಆಟಗಳು — Traditional Board Games
- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸುತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ-ಶೋಧಕ ಬೇಟೆ — Scavenger Hunt through Karnataka

Date & Time: 1 Nov 2025, **10** AM to **9** PM
2 Nov 2025, **7:30** AM to **9** PM

Venue: Bangalore International Centre
7, 4th Main Road, Domlur II Stage Bangalore 560071

All events are free and open to public
The festival is bilingual (Kannada and English)
For registration: www.bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ನವಂಬರ್ 1, 2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **10** ರಿಂದ ರಾತ್ರಿ **9** ರವರೆಗೆ
ನವಂಬರ್ 2, 2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **7:30** ರಿಂದ ರಾತ್ರಿ **9** ರವರೆಗೆ

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ,
7, 4ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದೊಮ್ಮಲೂರು 2ನೇ ಹಂತ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 560071
ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಪ್ರವೇಶವನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಬ್ಬವು ಎರಡು ಭಾಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ (ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್) ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ.
ನೋಂದಣಿಗಾಗಿ: www.bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Lalbagh: BJP announces protest on Nov 2

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP will stage a protest at Lalbagh on the morning of November 2 against the tunnel road project, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said on Thursday.

The protest has been planned at 8 am under the slogan "Save Lalbagh, Protect Bengaluru," Ashoka said.

"The mere mention of "tunnel road project" strikes fear in people's hearts. No one knows whose home will be affected where. In Lalbagh, 6 acres of land are being acquired for the project, and no department has granted permission for this," Ashoka said. "With the Bihar elections approaching, they (Congress) might be pushing this project to make money," he charged.

Anganwadi helper singes boy's face

SORAB (SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT), DHNS: The parents of a child have complained that an anganwadi centre helper at Chikkasavi village in the taluk has singed the face of their three-and-a-half-year-old boy. The child has been treated at the general hospital in the town.

The parents have filed a complaint with the Child Development Officer of the Women and Child Development Department against Anganwadi helper Hemavati, and officials have said that action will be taken against her.

DyCM claims Union minister Khattar praised 'tunnel road' project

Slams Centre for discontinuing urban-centric projects, 'elusive' funds

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday claimed that Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar praised various initiatives taken up by the Karnataka government, including the construction of tunnel roads and flyovers to decongest the city's traffic.

"We have presented before him our demands for the state, but he has not assured us of any funds from the Centre," Shivakumar said while speaking to reporters after attending the meeting of Urban development ministers of Southern states.

The deputy chief minister also said the Centre has discontinued many urban-centric projects, which had existed in the past. The Centre, he added, has also not adhered to the promise of releasing funds under the 15th Finance Commission.

During his address to the press, Manohar Lal Khattar did not specifically appreciate or reject the proposal of building the tunnel road in Bengaluru. "Every city needs a mix of solutions to decongest the traffic. The solution can differ based on the city, area and the road. It may be on ground solutions, flyover or tunnel," he said, adding the choice should also be based on the situation and financing capabilities.

He also admitted that the discussion on the tunnel road project was held at the meeting where Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar was present. "We are also promoting a rapid rail transit system and one such project has been approved for New Delhi," he said.

On the delays in approving Metro projects, Khattar said the decisions are taken after studying the technical reports and not linked to political considerations. "India will soon become the second largest Metro network in the world. We have also allowed the implementation of Metro projects under different schemes including self-financing, joint ventures, public private partnerships and by raising international loans," he said.

Union Urban Affairs minister reviews central schemes at ministers' meet

BENGALURU, DHNS: The first regional meeting of the urban development ministers of southern states and union territories was held in Bengaluru on Thursday under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar.

The meeting brought together the ministers to deliberate on key issues, challenges and opportunities in urban development, and to chart a collective way forward.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, urban development minister Byrathi Suresh and Minister for Municipal Administration Rahim Khan were present.

The deliberations took place in two parts — the first focusing on Bengaluru's urban priorities and the second reviewing the progress of central schemes and interventions across the participating states and union territories.

The union minister reviewed the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission, AMRUT, PMAY, metro projects and PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, discussed implementation challenges and proposed actionable measures to improve on-ground outcomes.

All participating states were invited to the upcoming National Urban Conclave, scheduled on November 8 and 9 at Yashobhoomi in Delhi.

SOLEMN PROMISE

Police personnel take oath during an event organised by Karnataka Police on the eve of 'National Unity Day', in Chikkamagaluru on Thursday. PTI PHOTO

DKS challenges Tejasvi Surya to bring law against tunnel roads

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday challenged Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya to pass a law in Parliament banning tunnel roads across the country.

The Bengaluru Development Minister said the government was committed to expediting Namma Metro projects to support public transport users.

"Who is this Tejasvi Surya to say no to tunnel roads? Let his party's MLAs first use the metro, autorickshaws, and public transport. Why are they using cars? He should understand there are more than 1.30 crore vehicles in Bengaluru. Can Surya tell them not to use their vehicles? Let him and his family members use the metro and government buses," Shivakumar told reporters.

Responding to criticism over his "matrimonial" remark, the deputy chief minister said the reference to car ownership and marriage prospects was only a casual comment.

"We are the ones who brought the metro to this state. What did they do when they were in power? What did they bring from the Centre? How many pillars did they put up in Bengaluru? How much money did they bring for the project? The central government is providing only 11–12% of the funds for the metro. We are providing everything ourselves, including land compensation," he said.

Shivakumar told reporters not to ask him further questions about Surya.

"He is a waste material, an empty trunk. If senior leaders of his party like Ashoka, Ashwath Narayan, Basavaraj Bommai or Jagadish Shettar speak, I will answer. Because they understand all this. Shettar tried to do BRTS (bus rapid transit system) in his town, but it did not work. Is there space for BRTS in Bengaluru?" he asked.

Unreserved tickets via MUTS devices at KSR B'luru station

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) has started issuing unreserved tickets using MUTS (Mobile Unreserved Ticketing System) devices at the KSR Bengaluru (city) station.

According to the SWR, it is the first railway zone in India to implement the MUTS Sahayak ticketing scheme. The launch came after the Railway Board identified KSR Bengaluru as one of five NSG-1 category stations across India for the scheme's pilot implementation.

MUTS Sahayaks use handheld devices to issue unreserved tickets to passengers, offering another option for ticket bookings and providing relief from long queues. The SWR said the scheme was expected to reduce passenger rush at booking counters.

Pass marks: Stakeholders object to Horatti's 'conflicting stands'

BENGALURU DHNS: Stakeholders, including private school managements, have raised objections to the letter by the Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on lowering the pass marks for SSLC and PUC.

According to them, the Chairman was well-aware of the demand for reforms, and he had even participated in the seminar organised by the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka to discuss the topic.

It can be recalled that Horatti on Wednesday wrote to School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa requesting to restore the previous minimum passing marks. In response, the minister stated that it was not his personal decision, but the one arrived at on the basis of public opinion. "It benefits lakhs of students from the state board schools as CBSE and ICSE boards already follow 33% marks as standard," the minister said.

Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools, which represents the private schools in the state affiliated to state board has demanded Horatti to withdraw his statement.

In a letter to Horatti, the Association said, "You were the one who inaugurated the round table organised to discuss various issues including injustice caused to state board students compared to the other boards since the pass marks for the latter is fixed at 35. After the discussion, you wrote to chief secretary requesting to correct the discrepancies and the injustice caused to state board students. Your recent statement is against your own stand and has created confusion among stakeholders," the letter said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public, that my client **"Mr. MOHAMMED NAWAZ PASHA** and **Mr. MOHAMMED SIDDIQUE, both are S/o Ajaz Pasha,** R/at No.20, 2nd Main, Kushal Nagar, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore-560045." is intending purchase the immovable property as per absolute Sale Deed in the schedule hereunder from its owner **"RAJNI, D/o Shivkanta Chature".**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential property, Site No.**324,** formed in converted land bearing Sy. No. 92/3 converted for residential purposes vide order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR.(SA) 137/2001-2002 dated 03.09.2001 by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore district, House list Katha No. 246, situated at Thanisandra Village K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru District, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 30 ft, in all total 1200 square feet and it is bounded on: **East by**: Road, **West by**: site No. 319, **North by:** site No. 325, **South by:** site No. 323.

It is hereby informed to the general public that any person/s agent, Bank/s, Financial Institutions Etc., having any manner of claims, charge, mortgage, Right, Title and interest etc., in respect of the property described in the schedule are hereby requested to make the same known to the undersigned in writing supported by documents, as proof and evidence within a period of **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim of such person/s will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

VINAYACHANDRA, Advocate
PVB & VC ASSOCIATES
#739/39, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 6th Block, Bengaluru-560010.
Mob:9481808490/8105668009
Email: vnylexjusticia@gmail.com
Date: 30-10-2025

CORRIGENDUM

Due to typographical error, the name of the Notice published as **"EOI Notice No. NFR-SMMA-PR-2025 Dated: 28-10-2025".**

Now to be read as: "EOI Notice No. NFR-SMMMA-PR-2025 Dated: 28-10-2025."

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Chief Public Relations Officer
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Electrical (Project) Branch, Open Tender NIT No.: JBP-PROJECT-EPC-2025-01

The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Project), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders (EPC mode) from the reputed and experienced contractors through ON-Line for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **NIT No.:**JBP-PROJECT-EPC-2025-01 dt: 25.10.2025, **Name of work with location** : Design/Modification. Supply, Erection, Testing and Commisioning of 132kV/55 kV Scott connected of Traction Sub Station and swithing posts with AT between feeding Itarsi (Excl). - Shridham (Incl.) section (without SCADA) of Jabalpur Division, WC Railway in connection with Up gradation of Electric Traction System from 1x25 kV to 2x25 kV Traction System of WCR to meet 3000 MT loading target., **Approx cost of the work (in Rs.):** Rs. 206,72,56,267/-, **Cost of tender from:** nill, Address of the office: Dy. CEE/Project/Jabalpur, West-Central Railway, G-floor, CPM-Electrical building, Aside Railway stadium, JBP- 482001, (M.P), **Bid Security (in Rs.) :** Rs. 1,03,36,500/- , **Completion period** : 18 Months, Last date & time for submission of tender: 09.12.2025 (Up to 11.00 hrs. **Date & time for opening of tender :**16.12.2025 (at 11.00 hrs., Complete details of tender document available on the Railway website https:/ireps.gov.in and also placed on notice board of Dy. CEE/P/JBP office. **Date & time for opening of tender :** 16.12.2025 (at 11.00 hrs., Complete details of tender document available on the Railway website https:/ireps.gov.in and also placed on notice board of Dy. CEE/P/JBP office.

Sd./-
For Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Project)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SZCC

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Government of India
Ministry of Culture

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, SOUTH ZONE CULTURAL CENTRE, (SZCC) Thanjavur

Applications are invited in **duplicate** from eligible candidates for filling up of one post of Director, South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. The SZCC, Thanjavur is one of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres set up by the Government of India to promote folk, tribal arts and culture of different regions across the country.

The appointment will be on deputation/short term contract basis for a period of 3 years which is extendable by 2 years depending upon the performance of the incumbent. The officers of the rank of Director/Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Cultural personalities (practising artistes, scholars or experts in the field of art and culture with at least 10 years standing and experience) are eligible to apply.

The application complete in all respect should reach the Office of Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Raj Bhavan, Chennai - 600 022 within 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar. The application form and other details are available on the website of the Ministry of Culture: **www.indiaculture.nic.in and SZCC: www.szccindia.org**

(Director)
SZCC, Thanjavur

CBC 09132/12/0001/2526

AIR FORCE STATION
Jalahalli (East), Bangalore-560 013, Tele : 41187235

1. Applications are Invited from war widows/ widows of defence personnel killed while on duty, disabled soldiers/ ex servicemen and spouses/ widows of ex- servicemen for running the following SI Side shops at Air Force Station, Jalahalli (East and West) for period of 01 year initially.
2. Applications are invited from civilians also. However, category mentioned in Para 1 above will be given priority over Para 2 category. The mentioned SI No. from 10 to 13 (East Area) and 01 to 05 (West Area) will be yearly contract renewable annually for 05 years subject to satisfactory performance. The mentioned no's from 01 to 09 (East Area) will be contracted for 01 year only from the date of contract and fresh tender would be undertaken.
3. Applications are invited from SI Shops as listed:

Sl. No.	Name of the Shop	Location	Sl. No.	Name of the Shop	Location
EAST AREA					
1	General Store & Book stall	ETI	9	Supper bar	16 TS
2	Dry Cleaning shop		10	Mobile & watch repair shop	Akshaya complex
3	Tailor shop	E&ITI	11	Electric repair shop	
4	Fruit shop		12	Steel box shop	Akshaya complex II
5	Supper bar		13	Provision shop	7th camp
6	Sweet shop	E&ITI			
7	Dry cleaning shop				
8	General store & book stall				
WEST AREA					
1	Steel box shop	Tripti complex	4	Mochi shop	Tripti complex
2	Tailor shop		5	Newspaper/ Magazine	
3	Car garage				

4. Further, considering the prime locality and scope for progression, interested parties are promoted to set up franchise like shops including safal vegetable shop, Hallimane vegetable shop, Karnataka state fisheries co-operative shop, Nandu's, 99 store, organics etc.
5. The space earmarked for the shops will be run as SI venture. Salient QRs for running the shops is as follows:
   (a) The shops should be brought up to desired standards on the expenses of vendor.
   (b) Sanitation and hygiene towards operating the shops is to be met.
   (c) Monthly rebate, rent and allied charges as applicable will be paid by the vendor to SI Fund and to BSO through MRO as per procedure in vogue.
6. Application forms can be procured on payment of Rs.500/- (non refundable) from 01 Nov 2025 to 17 Nov 2025, between 0900hrs to 1300hrs on all working days (except Saturdays & Sundays). Earnest money @ Rs.5,000/- per application must be deposited by applicant from 03 Nov 2025 to 17 Nov 2025 between 0900hrs to 1300hrs on all working days (except Saturdays & Sundays). Same can be collected from Service Institute office, Air force Station Jalahalli (East) Bangalore.
7. Contracts will be awarded through Auction Process. Minimum bench marking rebates will be set by AFS Jalahalli. Box will be placed at main gate, Air Force Station, Jalahalli (East), Bangalore-13 from 03 Nov 2025 to 18 Nov 2025 (1000hrs). Application forms should be in sealed envelopes separate for each shop with the name of shop written on it. If applied for more than one shop, application form for each shop should have copies of required documents. A vendor will be allotted not more than two shops. All applicants are to drop the sealed application envelopes in the said box which will be sealed at 1000hrs on 18 Nov 2025, and applications will be opened at 1100hrs on 18 Nov 2025, by BOO in the presence of applicants. In case selected applicants do not take over the allotment shop within the stipulated time, the earnest money will be forfeited and contract will not be awarded.
8. Interested persons are to attach a photo copy of the below mentioned documents along with the application form and produce the original ID card and original documents at the time of opening of applications for verification. Non adherence will result in disqualification of the applicant. Applicants not present during the Tendering will be disqualified. The shops will be allotted based on the highest bidders for the rebates to be paid, in the Auction process, in presence of the applicants.
   (i) Discharge book (ii) PPO No. (iii) Adhaar card
   (iv) Education certificate (v) Bank pass book (vi) TIN/ GST /PAN No.
   (vii) FSSAI certificate (Supper bar, Sweet shop and restaurants)
9. The final call on allotment and location of the shops would be undertaken by an independent BOO depending on the responses received, considering the proposals for setting up of stalls not included in the main list.

PERSON TO CONTACT:
Service Institute office
Air Force Station Jalahalli (East), Bangalore 13 Tele : 41187235

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BAJJANAHALLI, TQ-KORATAGERE, DIST-TUMAKURU

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Eligible Candidates are invited to appear for a walk-in-interview for the posts Counsellors and Female staff nurse on Outsource Basis in EMRS Bajjanahalli. Candidates must bring their biodata, original certificates, one set of photocopies of all certificates, and two photographs at the time of walk-in-interview.

Essential Qualification: As per EMRS Recruitment Rules NESTS.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/INF3rRqsfOhrSiUWvw9NLh7P3hbkPLBga/view?usp=drivesd kRemuneration:

Outsource Basis staff shall be paid a consolidated remuneration per month of **Rs.35,400/-** for Counsellors and **29,200/-** for Female Staff Nurse. This is a temporary engagement until the requirements.

Venue and Date & Time: EMRS Bajjanahalli, 06/11/2025 at 9.00 A.M

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Erode invites Online tender for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_10, Dated: 28.10.2025
Description of Work	Works contract for Provision of Loco rain water leakage testing arrangement along with pump & nozzle at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Erode invites Online tender for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_9, Dated: 27.10.2025
Description of Work	Works contract for Data entry and Updation of Digital records in various Databases at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem - 636005 for the following work:

Sl. No.	Description	
1	Tender Notice Number and Date	**SA-M-08-2025 Dated: 27.10.2025**
2	**Name of Work :** Outsourcing of Repair of wagons during Routine Overhauling at ROH Shed, Erode & Attending Repair of Sick Wagons in sick line at Erode for a period of Two years.	
3	Estimate Value	**₹ 4,22,50,017.22**
4	Tender Closing date and time	**19.11.2025 at 15:00 hrs**
5	Web address	**https://www.ireps.gov.in**

The Tender has been uploaded on the IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in** on 27.10.2025

The firms registered in IREPS Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Salem - 636 005

SEBI
भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

RECRUITMENT - 2025

APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF OFFICER GRADE A - GENERAL, LEGAL, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, ENGINEERING (ELECTRICAL), ENGINEERING (CIVIL) AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE STREAMS

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to protect the interest of investors in securities, to promote the development of and to regulate the securities market. SEBI invites applications from Indian citizens for recruitment to the post of Officers in Grade A - General, Legal, Information Technology, Research, Engineering (Electrical), Engineering (Civil) and Official Language Streams.

The applications can be filled **ONLINE** from **October 30, 2025 to November 28, 2025.**

For the detailed advertisement and online application form, visit SEBI website at- **https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/about/AboutAction.do?doVacancies=yes**

CBC 15204/11/0175/2526

(GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND)
Jharkhand Mineral Area Development Authority, Dhanbad.

NIT No.:-15/2025-2026 Date:30/10/2025

VERY SHORT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1.	Name of the Work	Selection of Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant Firms for Internal Audit of Mineral Area Development Authority, Dhanbad.
2.	Descriptions and Objectives of the Assignments	Internal Audit to assist in improving the accountability of use of Funds and provid e a deterrent to malpractice or mismanagement.
3.	Language of Documentation	English
4	Mode of submission of bids	By Hand (Open Tender)
5.	Method of Selection	"LCS(Least cost Selection method)
6.	Total time Period of Service	1 Year (One Year
7.	Date of starting of Sales of RFP Paper	03.11.2025 at 11.00 am to 11.11.2025 upto 3.00 pm
8.	Pre-Bid meeting Date	04.11.2025 at 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm
9.	Last Date/Time for submission of Bids	12.11.2025 at 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
10.	No of Copies of Tech. and Financial Proposal for each package.	1 copy of Technical Proposal 1 copy of financial proposal
11.	Date \Time of Technical Bid Opening	13.11.2025 at 12.00 pm upto Last Bid to be open
12.	Date \Time of Financial Bid Opening	To be announced later
13.	Bid Sale/Submission address	Office of the Mineral Area Development Authority, MADA building, Luby circular road, Dhanbad.
14.	Helpline No.	**9471568618 / 7061313280**
15.	RFP Document Fee and Earnest **Money Deposit (EMD)**	INR 1000.00Cost of RFP and Earnest Money Deposit of INR 10,000.00 shall be deposited by Demand Draft of any Schedule Banking in Favor of Secretary , Jharkhand Mineral Area Development Authority, Payable at Dhanbad.

Sd/-
Secretary
JMADA, Dhanbad.

PR 364883 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 25-26 (D)

Forest dept to seek govt for separate cadre of wildlife vets

BENGALURU, DHNS: In the wake of the queries over the lack of veterinary doctors leading to a crisis in wildlife management, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed senior officials to submit a proposal to the Finance Department to raise a separate cadre of wildlife veterinarians.

DH on Thursday highlighted the Forest Department's failure to take up a detailed proposal submitted a decade ago to raise a cadre of specialised veterinarians. The department has been depending on the outsourced doctors who lack specialisation in treating wildlife and who can't be held accountable for their action. "A separate cadre of wildlife veterinarians needs to be appointed. Take steps to submit to the Finance Department a proposal along with a clear framework for appointing such a cadre," the direction to the Additional Chief Secretary said.

RSS route march: KSAT stays PDO's suspension

BENGALURU, PTI: The Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT) has stayed the "arbitrary suspension" of a Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) for taking part in an RSS route march, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said on Thursday.

The Bangalore South MP, who is also a lawyer by profession, said his law office had challenged the suspension of Praveen Kumar, the PDO in Lingasugur taluk, Raichur district. Surya said in a post on 'X', "KSAT has today (Thursday) stayed the suspension order, which was mechanically passed due to political pressure. The stay should serve as a lesson to the Congress government that "no amount of intimidation can deter the nation-building ideals of RSS," he added.

Reacting to the development, Priyank Kharge wrote on 'X', "Misinterpreting the court directions seems to have become a habit for BJP leaders. The KSAT, Kalaburagi Bench has only passed an interim order and has not passed any order quashing or setting aside the suspension order of the PDO who participated in RSS rally."

The suspension order will be in abeyance till the final verdict of the case, the minister said. "We will file the statement and contest the matter," Priyank added.

Family consumes poison; two dead, two critical

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two members of a family died while two others are battling for their lives after allegedly consuming poison at their home in northern Bengaluru on Thursday evening. Kumaraswamy (60) and his elder son Arun Kumar (36) died, while his wife Rama, 56, and younger son Akshay Kumar, 25, are in critical condition and undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The incident was reported from Hegganahalli, Chikkajala, around 8 pm. A neighbour who came to see the family called the police after finding them unconscious.

"We have recovered a video note in which the family has named certain individuals and alleged threats over loans. We are verifying the details and identifying those involved," a senior police officer investigating the case said. Preliminary investigations revealed that the family had suffered heavy losses in the real-estate business. Police said Kumaraswamy had been involved in real-estate business for several years, but had incurred huge losses.

A case has been registered and further investigation is underway, the officer added.

Help is just a call away

If you are struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, know that help is available. Please reach out for support at 14416 or 1800-891-4416.

8 years after CAG rap, forest dept told to check illegal resorts in ESZs

Farmers complain, minister directs to enforce rules

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Eight years after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India flagged the issue of illegal resorts on the periphery of protected areas of Karnataka, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has asked his department to implement the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) Rules to prevent such activities.

The minister's letter comes in the wake of complaints by the farmers in the ESZ and surrounding areas. Farmers have complained that while the local populations are wary of the restrictions imposed by the department, commercial activities that disturb the peace of the forests are being allowed.

"Farmers have alleged that illegal homestays and resorts mushrooming in the ESZ are causing disturbance to animals and driving them to villages by light and blaring sounds of the night life," Khandre said in a letter to the principal secretary of Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.

He said field directors and divisional officers should not clear development proposals at divisional level but place the same before the ESZ Monitoring Committee for scrutiny. He further said that a master plan should be prepared as directed in the ESZ notification.

"The full committee of the ESZ should discuss the proposal and give clearances as per the provisions in the master plan," the minister said.

Sources in the department said the lack of final ESZ notification and the consequent absence of a master plan would be among the gaps exploited by the commercial developers. "However, they said the possibility of officers sidestepping the ESZ committee is unlikely," an official said.

The forest department has got a clear warning about illegal resorts by the CAG in its report number 6 of 2017. The report stated that out of 51 resorts in six protected areas, only seven (14%) had received the clearances. DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

ESHWAR KHANDRE
Forest Minister

"Farmers have alleged that illegal homestays and resorts mushrooming in the ESZ are causing disturbance to animals and driving them to villages by light and blaring sounds of the night life.

The department has got a clear warning about illegal resorts by the CAG in its report number 6 of 2017. The report stated that out of 51 resorts in six protected areas, only seven (14%) had received the clearances. Of the 19 in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, 13 were not "approved by the department".

Further the CAG rapped the forest department for not even maintaining data on such activities. "It was observed that the lists of resorts furnished by the (forest) department were obtained by the department of tourism and the forest department did not have its own data... the absence of approval/regulation will have an indirect but significant impact on the wildlife and its habitats," it said.

Somanna inspects Yeshwantpur coaching depot

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister of State for Railways V Somanna inspected the Yeshwantpur coaching depot on Thursday, reviewing various maintenance facilities and its overall performance.

He also reviewed activities carried out under the ongoing special cleanliness campaign.

A key maintenance unit under the South Western Railway (SWR), the Yeshwantpur coaching depot maintains 41 rakes and holds 909 coaches. It undertakes primary and secondary maintenance of trains, as well as attention to platform turnaround trains. It also carries out Intermediate Overhauling (IOH) of both ICF and LHB coaches, according to the SWR.

Somanna also visited the 11-foot-tall horse sculpture, made entirely from scrap materials such as nuts, bolts, washers, metallic ropes and springs, in the depot garden. It was designed and fabricated in-house by the depot staff, the SWR added.

Minister of State for Railways V Somanna and Divisional Railway Manager Ashutosh Kumar Singh at the Yeshwantpur coaching depot on Thursday. PHOTO: SWR

India's budding scientists explore 'Quantum Age'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 42nd edition of the National Science Seminar drew an overwhelming response from students across India at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum on Thursday.

Organised annually by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) for students of classes 8 to 10, the event aims to promote scientific temper through a multi-tiered competition spanning block, district, and state levels.

This year's theme, 'The Quantum Age Begins: Potentials and Challenges', attracted participants from all 36 states and Union Territories. The seminar was inaugurated by Urbashi Sinha, Senior Professor, Quantum Information and Computing Laboratory (QuIC), Raman Research Institute; and PC Deshmukh, Convenor, CAMOST, IIT Tirupati, and Chair Professor, Centre for Quantum Sciences and Technologies, RV University.

"The students progress through multiple rounds at various levels across India. This year, being the 'Year of the Quantum', they presented on the theme and winners were chosen from each state," said Cyril K Babu, curator at the museum.

Each participant had six minutes to present before a jury representing the five NCSM zones—North, South, East, West, and North-East.

The national winners received a cash prize of Rs 48,000, a certificate of merit, a trophy, books, and science kits. Nine second prize winners were awarded Rs 24,000 each, while all remaining participants received Rs 1,000 as a token of appreciation.

The jury included Suprit Singh, Assistant Professor, IIT Delhi; Vidyadhiraj, Professor and Dean, JNCASR, Bengaluru; Shriganesh S Prabhu, Senior Scientist, TIFR, Mumbai; Tanusri Saha Dasgupta, Director, S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata; and Sumanta Borthakur, Head of Science (IGCSE), International School Guwahati.

As part of the seminar, participants will visit the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CenSe) at the Indian Institute of Science on Friday to interact with researchers and innovators in quantum science.

CYRIL K BABU
Curator at the museum

"The students progress through multiple rounds at various levels across India. This year, being the 'Year of the Quantum', they presented on the theme and winners were chosen from each state,

WALK OF FAITH

Devotees set off on a padayatra from Vijayapura to the pilgrimage centre of Pandharapur in neighbouring Maharashtra to take part in Karthika Ekadashi celebrations, on Thursday. They carry Tulasi pot and sing bhajans all along the journey. DH PHOTO/SANJEEV AKKI

PSI, constable suspended after ex-CFO of BPCL narrates harrowing experience

BENGALURU, DHNS

A police sub-inspector (PSI) and a constable (PC) in Bengaluru were suspended pending an inquiry after a retired Bharath Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shared a harrowing experience involving harassment and bribery he faced following the death of his daughter.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield) K Parashurama confirmed that PSI Santhosh and PC Goraknath, both attached to the Bellandur police station, have been suspended. "An inquiry is underway," the senior officer told *DH*.

Recently, Sivakumar K, the retired BPCL CFO, narrated the events on LinkedIn following the untimely death of his 34-year-old daughter, Akshaya Sivakumar, an Indian Institute of Management–Ahmedabad (IIM–Ahmedabad) graduate, due to a brain haemorrhage on September 18.

He claimed that the ambulance driver demanded Rs 3,000 for taking his daughter from a hospital in Kasavanahalli to St John's Hospital in Koramangala. "The police were so rude, especially the inspector, when his juniors said we could go ahead with the postmortem. Luckily, my ex-employer pulled the right strings. Post-mortem was done, we donated her eyes and her body was released for cremation," he posted.

"In the cremation ground, they demanded money, which we paid. Since the police had to give a copy of the death report and post-mortem report, we met after four days. They gave and openly demanded cash, which I paid at the police station. I later found that there are no CCTVs in the area where they take money."

"Actually, the sub-inspector spoke so nicely and signed the above documents and told me to meet his assistant where the bribe is demanded. In BBMP, I went daily for five days, and I was told no one was in the office due to the caste survey. Then I approached a top official in BBMP, and the death certificate was issued after taking more money, claiming official charges. Wondering what the poor will do," he added, in the now-deleted LinkedIn post.

NIA chargesheets 11 persons in Suhas Shetty murder case

MANGALURU, DHNS

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against 11 persons accused in the Suhas Shetty murder case before the NIA special court in Bengaluru.

The charge sheet was filed under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Arms Act, 1959. On May, 2025, Suhas Shetty was brutally hacked to death by seven men armed with lethal weapons. The murder was carried out in full public view in order to instill fear and to spread terror in society, NIA stated in a press release.

NIA which took over the case on the directions of Ministry of Home Affairs, found a bigger conspiracy behind the targeted killing. During investigations it discovered that Suhas Shetty's activities were meticulously tracked for many months as part of an elaborate conspiracy. On the fateful day, seven accused in two cars trailed Suhas Shetty's Innova car. The accused deliberately collided with the Innova car driven by Suhas Shetty.

Suhas Shetty

Suhas Shetty was forced to flee on foot and was eventually hacked to death by the assailants. As per NIA investigations in the case RC-01/2025/NIA/BLR, the terror plot was hatched by accused Abdul Safwan Safwan (alias Kalavaru Safwan alias Chopu Safwan, a former member of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI)) along with Niyaz alias Niya, Mohammed Musamir (alias Mahamed Musameer alias Mohammad alias Muzammil), Noushad (alias Vamanjoor Noushad alias Chotte Naushad alias Chotu, a former PFI member) and Adil Maharoof.

Accused Adil Maharoof alias Adil had provided the funds, which were used to recruit other accused on the promise of payment or by exploiting any previous existing enmity with the victim. All the five men along with Kalandar Shafi alias Mande Shafi, M Nagaraja alias Naga alias Appu, Ranjith, Mahammed Rizwan alias Rijju, Azaruddin alias Azar alias Ajju, and Abdul Khader alias Noufal have been named in the charge sheet. Investigation against another arrested accused, Abdul Razak is under progress, NIA added.

'Do you know who my father is?': BJP leader's son assaults toll staff

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS

BJP leader Vijugouda Patil's son Samarthgouda and his friends allegedly assaulted and abused a staffer of toll booth at Kannoli on Vijayapura-Kalaburagi highway after being asked to pay the toll, on Thursday.

The purported video of Samarthgouda and his friends assaulting the toll booth employee, Sangappa, has gone viral on social media. Samarthgouda and his friends were travelling to Sindagi from Vijayapura in a Jeep when he was stopped at Kannoli toll booth.

When asked to pay the toll fee, Samarthgouda reportedly told the staff, "Do you know who I am... I am the son of BJP leader Vijugouda Patil." Samarthgouda and his friends assaulted and abused the toll booth staff when the latter asked "which Vijugouda?" Sangappa, who sustained injuries in the assault, was rushed to Sindagi taluk hospital.

The toll staff, however, have not lodged a police complaint out of fear. Vijugouda Patil, brother of Minister Shivanand Patil, had unsuccessfully contested the 2023 Assembly elections against M B Patil from Babaleshwar constituency.

BSWML 'shames' litterbugs...

Garbage, from Page 1

Some residents got into altercations with the BSWML staff, marshals and link workers, who were overseeing the garbage-dumping drive. Residents argued that BSWML is unfairly targeting them as most other residents on the street, who had also thrown garbage in the past, were spared.

BSWML, however, defended their act, stating that they have video proof of frequent littering of garbage. Karee Gowda, chief executive officer of BSWML, said garbage tippers collect waste from every house coming under the Greater Bengaluru Area.

"Yet, some residents throw garbage in public places. This is bringing disrepute to Bengaluru. We hence dumped garbage in front of houses of habitual offenders so that they realise how it feels when waste is dumped in front of others houses," he said.

After dumping the garbage, BSWML workers later cleared it before slapping a penalty on the litterbugs by showing proof of them dumping waste in the past. Overall, it collected about Rs 2 lakh in penalty.

V Ramaprasad, a solid waste management expert said the government's action was arbitrary and does not have a legal backing. "This action shows that the government itself has violated the rules in the name of sending a message against garbage dumping and about segregation. Whatever the claims, auto tippers do not visit all houses daily. Their timings are also irregular. BSWML should first fixt this," he said.

A senior BSWML official said it has put in place a control room to receive complaints whenever the door-to-door collection of garbage does not happen. "This will also help us keep a track of the performance of garbage contractors," he said.

Mumbai hostage crisis ends...

Hostage, from Page 1

"Slightest wrong move from your side will trigger problems...I am not alone," he warned in the video. According to initial information, Arya was fed up with the dilly-dallying of the School Education department for the payments it owed to him for the works he had completed, and took the extreme step to address his grievances.

As soon as the Powai Police station got the information, a team rushed to the spot. Simultaneously teams of Quick Reaction Team, Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, Mumbai Fire Brigade and special units like Force One rushed to the area. The fire brigade launched the rescue operation, where they used hydraulic tools to cut open the grills and make way for the police. Deputy Commissioner of Police Datta Nalawade said that even while negotiation was underway a team gained access by forced entry through the bathroom and rescued the hostages.

The hostages were kept confined on the ground floor of the studio. Police said that some chemicals and an air gun had been seized from the crime scene.

Mumbai Police have launched a detailed investigation to understand how Arya managed to organise the fake audition and lure children to the studio.

Nagarahole tiger treks 360 km...

Tiger, from Page 1

He says that the division has been accommodating spillover tigers from KTR and is one of the vital tiger corridors.

This is not the first time that a tiger has travelled this far to establish a territory in KTR. In 2020, a male tiger from Maharashtra was photographed establishing its territory in KTR and before that, another male tiger from Bhadra Tiger Reserve travelled nearly 200 km to make KTR its new home.

Qamar Quereshi, former nodal officer with the Wildlife Institute of India-NTCA Tiger Cell, says dispersal of male tigers is a common phenomenon, where male sub-adult tigers after separating from the mother will randomly move to establish safe territory, where they can get food and mates.

"There have been records of tigers traveling nearly 600 km in search of food and mates. This journey is very important as it ensures continuation of the tiger corridor and diversification of genes that will help in preventing extinction of tigers in particular places due to diseases. The dispersal also ensures that the tiger population in densely populated protected areas is also maintained."

Govt may pause 16.75-km tunnel...

Tunnel, from Page 1

There is also resistance from St John's Hospital, whose prime property has been marked for acquisition as part of the project. The long tunnel requires about nine tunnel boring machines which need to be first manufactured and then imported, a long process, while the short tunnel is going to be built using cut-and-cover method

Meanwhile, officials are examining alternative plans to ease congestion at Hebbal Junction.

These include building the 2-km short tunnel and a new flyover with a left loop towards Jayamahal, which may require acquisition of a portion of the Army land in the area. What can be noted is that the responsibility of building a short tunnel at Hebbal has been given to Bangalore Development Authority, which is apparently sitting with a lot of funds.

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd, which is in charge of the 16.75-km tunnel road, has extended the date of submission of bids by another 15 days. This is its fourth extension.

Parameshwara holds late-night meeting

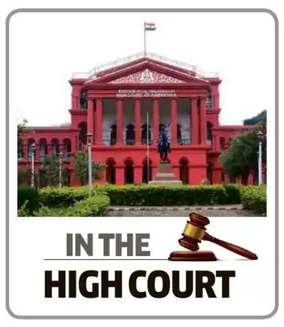
BENGALURU, DHNS: Behind-the-scenes developments continue in Congress amid speculation over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's tenure. Late on Wednesday night, Home Minister G Parameshwara, Industries Minister M B Patil, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and others held a closed-door meeting. It is said that they discussed political scenarios after November 20, when the Congress government completes two-and-a-half years in office.

It is also said that they discussed the possibility of a Dalit becoming the CM. Parameshwara belongs to SC. Meanwhile, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who is a regular at such closed-door meetings, said there was no need to read too much.

"We (leaders) have been meeting for several years now. Not every meeting is to discuss politics," he said.

Chittapur RSS route march: HC orders fresh meeting on Nov 7

Advocate General, petitioner's counsels to attend



AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kalaburagi bench of the high court on Thursday directed the authorities to hold a fresh meeting on November 7 to resolve the issue pertaining to the Patha Sanchalana (route march) organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at Chittapur town. With this, the Patha Sanchalana proposed to be held on November 2 will not take place.

Justice M G S Kamal said that the fresh meeting will be held at the office of the Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty and attended by the counsel on record as well as the senior counsel representing the petitioner Ashok Patil, a member of RSS.

The outcome of the said meeting has to be placed before the court on November 7, the court said. The petitioner sought a direction to the authorities to grant permission to conduct the route march from Bajaj Kalyan Mantap and returning back to Bajaj Kalyan Mantap-Chittapur ground.

"Considering the attention this issue has gathered over the period and also considering the stand of the petitioner's counsel, this court has suggested both the counsel on record and senior counsel who appeared for the petitioner as well as the advocate general to be part of the said meeting. This is keeping in mind to guide the modality of the meeting with their experience. With the consent of the parties, as suggested, such a meeting with the authorities shall be held on November 7 at 4 pm at the office of the advocate general," Justice Kamal said.

Earlier, during the hearing Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty informed the court that the meeting was convened on October 28 as directed by the court.

Though notice was served to the petitioner, he did not attend the meeting, the AG said.

It was submitted that the meeting was, however, held with other organisations and three persons, who attended on behalf of the petitioner.

Senior advocate Arun Shyam, representing the petitioner, submitted that the petitioner could not attend the meeting personally as there was bereavement in the family.

The petitioner is willing to participate personally if one more opportunity is given, he said. At this stage, the AG responded saying that the authorities would settle the issue amicably by deciding first the application filed by the petitioner and would later consider the applications filed by other organizations.

Saragur tiger attack: Notice to officials

BENGALURU, DHNS: Days after a farmer was mauled to death by a tiger in Mysuru district, the forest minister has ordered notice to forest officers for not visiting the site soon after.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, who happened to be in Mysuru, was gheroed when he visited KR Hospital to pay respects to the victim.

In a note to the principal secretary of the department, Khandre asked why no senior officer visited the victim.

Don't finalise 3rd round of med, dental seats till Oct 31: HC to KEA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court Thursday directed Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) not to finalise third-round allotment of medical and dental seats till Oct 31. A division bench comprising Justices Jayant Banerji and K V Aravind extended the interim order passed on Wednesday.

The bench was hearing a batch of petitions filed by students. The provisional allotment list was published on Oct 24. The petitioners contended that less meritorious students, based on NEET rank, were allotted seats in provisional list of BDS and MBBS courses. The bench also directed the director of KEA to file an affidavit explaining the mode of allotment of seats.

The petitioners said the procedure and criteria adopted for allotment in third round of counselling were not declared in admission information bulletin-2025. It was claimed that they were contrary to the procedure adopted for allotment of all-India quota seats in government colleges across the country.

It was said students were allowed to opt for vacant seats in third round under all-India quota category, irrespective of whether a seat was allotted in first & second rounds.

FARMERS FOR FAIR PRICE

Farmers from Belagavi, Vijayapura and Bagalkot districts stage a massive protest demanding sugar factories to pay Rs 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane at Gurlapur Cross in Belagavi district, on Thursday.

State recovers over 1 lakh lost phones in last three years

But recovery rate only 39.8% due to numerous challenges

Karnataka has been using Central Equipment Identity Registry to trace lost mobile phones since September 2022. DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka, on Wednesday, crossed one lakh mark in recovery of lost mobile phones using the Central Equipment Identity Registry (CEIR). Karnataka is only the second state after Telangana to achieve this feat and has recovered nearly double the number of phones as compared to UP which stood at third position in country.

Karnataka has been using CEIR to trace lost mobile phones since Sept 2022 and in last three years, close to 1,00,327 phones have been traced and recovered.

CEIR is a module of the Department of Telecommunication. If a mobile is blocked on CEIR using IMEI number, CEIR provides alert when it is switched on, helping police trace such phones.

"We have been aggressive in tracking and recovering lost and stolen phones and CEIR has helped in a big way. It sends us location of lost phone when it is switched for use again and we are always alert to act," said M A Saleem, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP).

Despite use of such technology, recovery rate in state is only 39.8%. While close to 4.41 lakh phones have been blocked on portal and 2.51 lakh have been traced, only 1 lakh phones have been recovered. Senior police officials explained that there are many challenges in recovering phones.

"In many cases, phone would have been transported to other states and even though we get location, it is not operationally feasible to go and recover. For instance, if we trace phone to Jharkhand, sending a team to recover it would be more expensive than cost of phone itself," a senior police officer said.

Many other phones go completely untraceable since they are dismantled and parts are sold off, said another official. Saleem urged citizens to file police complaint at the earliest to ensure better recovery.

In numbers

- Number of phones blocked: 4.49 lakh
- Number of phones traced: 2.51 lakh
- Total recovered: 1.03 lakh

Prakash Raj among 70 chosen for Rajyotsava awards

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government on Thursday announced 70 recipients for this year's Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, naming achievers from various fields.

Among the awardees are multilingual actor Prakash Raj, actress Vijayalakshmi Singh, senior Kannada writer Rahamat Tarikere, freedom fighter Konandur Lingappa, former India hockey player Ashish Kumar Ballal, retired IAS officer H Siddaiah, *DH*'s former associate editor K Subrahmanya and pourakarmika Fakkiri.

Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi released the list at a press conference, noting that the selection was made for the first time without officially inviting applications.

Tangadagi emphasised the new, merit-based selection approach, stating that the list of 70 recipients was finalised based on district-wise representation and through a rigorous process of social supervision, where 21 people from minor communities have been identified and awarded.

He clarified that while some deserving candidates had applied voluntarily, the overall selection focused on merit and committee recommendations.

"Most of the people recommended by members of the Selection Advisory Committee were selected, and I would like to express my gratitude to the members who met four or five times in selecting the deserving ones," he added.

The award comprises a 25-gram gold medal, a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh cash and a memento. Thirteen women have been selected for the prestigious honour. For the first time in the history of the awards, two members of the Samagar Haralayya community have been identified and selected for the award.

In line with a prior decision, no organisations have been awarded this time.

The awards will be presented at a function at Ravindra Kalakshetra at 6 pm on November 1. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will lay garland to the Bhuvaneshwari statue at 8.30 am as part of the Rajyotsava celebrations.

List of awardees for 2025

LITERATURE
- **Prof Rajendra Chenni**, Shivamogga
- **Tumbadi Ramayya**, Tumakuru
- **Prof R Sunandamma**, Chikkaballapur
- **Dr H L Pushpa**, Tumakuru
- **Rahamat Tarikere,** Chikkamagaluru
- **H M Poojary**, Vijayapura

FOLKLORE
- **Basappa Bharamappa Choudki**, Koppal
- **B Takappa Kannur**, Shivamogga
- **Sanningappa Satteppa Mushennagola**, Belagavi
- **Hanumanthappa Marappa, Cheelangi**, Chitradurga
- **M Topanna**, Kolar
- **Somanna Dundappa Dhanagonda**, Vijayapura
- **Sindhu Gujran**, Dakshina Kannada
- **L Mahadevappa Udigala,** Mysuru

MUSIC
- **Devendrakumar Pattar**, Koppal
- **Madivalaiah Sali**, Bidar

DANCE
- **Prof K Ramamurthy Rao**, Mysuru

FILM
- **Prakash Raj**, Dakshina Kannada
- **Vijayalakshmi Singh**, Kodagu

ADMINISTRATION
- **H Siddaiah IAS** (Retd), Bengaluru South (Ramanagara)

MEDICAL
- **Dr Alamma Maranna**, Tumakuru
- **Dr Jayaranganath**, Bengaluru Rural

SOCIAL SERVICE
- **Sulagitti Eramma**, Vijayanagar
- **Fakkiri,** Bengaluru Rural I **Corinne Antoinette Ruskeena**, Dakshina Kannada
- **Dr N Sitarama Shetty**, Udupi
- **Konandur Lingappa**, Shivamogga

MISCELLANEOUS
- **Umesh Pambada**, Dakshina Kannada
- **Dr Ravindra Korishette**, Dharwad
- **K Dinesh**, Bengaluru
- **Shantharaju**, Tumakuru
- **Zafer Mohiuddin**, Raichur
- **Penna Obalaiah**, Bengaluru Rural
- **Shanti Bai K,** Ballari
- **Pundalika Shastri** (Budabudake), Belagavi

ENVIRONMENT
- **Ramegowda**, Chamarajanagar
- **Mallikarjuna Ningappa**, Yadgiri

AGRICULTURE
- **S V Hittalamani**, Haveri
- **M C Rangaswamy**, Hassan

MEDIA
- **K Subrahmanya** (Former Associate Editor of Deccan Herald, Bengaluru)
- **Anshi Prasannakumar**, Mysuru
- **B M Hanif**, Dakshina Kannada
- **M Siddaraju**, Mandya

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- **Ramayya**, Chikkaballapur
- **Air Marshal Philip Rajkumar**, Davanagere
- **Dr R V Nadagowda**, Gadag

OUT-OF-STATE/ABROAD
- **Zachariah Bajpe**, Saudi Arabia
- **P V Shetty**, Mumbai

COOPERATIVE
- **Shekhar Gowda V Malipatil**, Koppal

YAKSHAGANA:
- **Kota Suresh Bangera**, Udupi
- **Irabail Anand Shetty**, Udupi
- **Krishna Parameshwara Hegde** (KP Hegde), Uttara Kannada

BAYALAATA
- **Gunduraj**, Hassan

THEATRE
- **H M Paramashivayya**, Bengaluru South (Ramanagar)
- **L B Sheikh** (Master), Vijayapura
- **Bangarappa Khudanpura**, Bengaluru
- **Maim Ramesh**, Dakshina Kannada
- **D Rathnamma Desai**, Raichur

EDUCATION
- **Dr M R Jayaram**, Bengaluru
- **Dr N S Ramegowda**, Mysuru
- **S B Hosamani**, Kalaburagi
- **Raj Sri Nagaraju**, Belagavi

SPORTS
- **Ashish Kumar Ballal**, Bengaluru
- **M Yogendra**, Mysuru
- **Babina N M** (Yoga), Kodagu

JUDICIARY
- **P B Bhajantri** (Pawan Kumar Bhajantri), Bagalkote

SCULPTING
- **Basanna Monappa Badigera**, Yadgiri
- **Nagalingappa G Gangur**, Bagalkote

PAINTING
- **B Maruti**, Vijayanagar

HANDICRAFTS
- **L Hemashekhar**, Mysuru

1,700 students to participate in Rajyotsava fete

BENGALURU, DHNS: As many as 1,700 students will take part in the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations on November 1 at Kanteerava stadium here.

After inspecting the premises to check the preparations, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa on Thursday said, "Of the total 1,700 students, 700 are from government schools. All participating students will get certificates."

The minister said the number of participants has increased this year. "Last year, a total students of 1,100 took part, of which 300 were from government schools. CM Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the event on Saturday and announce some new schemes for the department in the interest of students," he said.

The minister said the department was gearing up for celebration of Children's Day (Nov 14) in a unique manner this time. "We are planning to celebrate by bringing students, parents and teachers together," he added.

The admission drive planned to attract students to government schools will begin formally on Nov 1. The minister said 13,000 teachers have been appointed and another 10,000 will be hired soon.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are desirous of entering into a development agreement in respect of property of (i) the land bearing **Survey No. 55/6A1** admeasuring 33 Guntas and (ii) the land bearing Survey No. 55/7 admeasuring 3 Acres 12 Guntas (including 1 Acre 25 Guntas of A Kharab), both situated at Gubbalala Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, which is owned by **Mr. V.S Chandrashekar**. The land parcel for which we are investigating the title is described in the schedule below and shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Schedule Properties."

If any person has any right, title, interest, claim, or demand in relation to the Schedule Properties or any part thereof, or has executed any transactions or documents (whether registered or unregistered) with the owners or their predecessors in title, having the effect of creating an encumbrance thereon, they are hereby called upon to submit their statements, objections, or claims in writing, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice.
If no such objections are received within the said period, it shall be conclusively presumed that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge, or encumbrance whatsoever over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, and we shall proceed to issue our opinion confirming that the owners have clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

a. All that piece and parcel of immoveable property being the land bearing **Survey No. 55/6A1** admeasuring 33 Guntas situated at Gubbalala Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded as follows:
East by : Land bearing Survey No. 61; **West by :**Remaining portion of land bearing **Survey No.55/6A1** belonging to Chartered Beverly; **North by :** Land belonging to Chartered Beverly bearing **Survey No. 55/6A1**; and **South by :** Land bearing Survey No. 55/7 belonging to Mr. **V.S. Chandrashekar.**

b. All that piece and parcel of immoveable property being the land bearing **Survey No. 55/7** admeasuring 3 Acres 12 Guntas (including 1 Acre 25 Guntas of A Kharab)situated at Gubbalala Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded as follows:
East by: Road and land bearing Survey No. 61;**West by :** Road **North by :** Land bearing Survey No. 55/6A1; and **South by:** Land bearing **Survey No. 56**.

Gerald Manoharan,
Partner, JSA, Advocates,
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Ph : **080-43503600 / 43503610,**
E-mail : gerald@jsalaw.com
Place: Bangalore Date: 31/10/2025

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

General

WANTED OFFICE ASSISTANT (Male), Bommanahalli, Bangalore. Mail your resume to: starsilks@gmail.com

HRD & Admin

WANTED FEMALE Office Assistant Any Degree Knowing Tally, Fluent In English, Kannada, Hindi Around Rajajinagar Contact: 9108458798/ 9845579620

Teachers/ Professors

WANTED TRAINED lady teachers for English science for Primary Highschool Maitri English school Udayanagar Bengaluru16 8892949404

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

FOR RENT Independent Corner Building Suitable for Showroom Space @Jayanagar 4th Block 100Ft Road of 10,000Sqft. With Basement/ Ground/1st/2nd/3rd &4th Floor Each Floor 2400Sqft. With Lift,Parking,DG Power Suitable for Jewellary/Textile/ Saree Etc. Call-9901453477

560 SQFT East facing Shop for Rent, BSK 3rd stage near Ring Road, prime location. 9686722226.

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FOR RENT Independent Corner Building Suitable for Showroom Space @BSK II STAGE, Wide Roads of 15,000Sqft. With Stilt,Ground, 1st/2nd/3rd/4th Terrace Each Floor 3000 Sqft With Lift,Parking,DG Power Suitable for Jewellary/Textile/ Saree/Hospital,Etc. Call-9901453477

FOR RENT Independent Building Suitable for Showroom Space @Kanakapura Road, J.P.NAGAR Metro Signal Near Piller No-74 of 2500-6000 Sqft. Ground Floor with Parking, DG Power Suitable for Automobile/Jewellary/ Textile/Saree, Etc. Call-9901453477

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EDUCATION SUCCESS

Manjunatha G. Awarded Ph.D. Degree

Manjunatha G., Chief Librarian at KLE Society's S. Nijalingappa College, Bengaluru, has been awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree by Tumkur University. He completed his doctoral research under the guidance of Prof. B. T. Sampath Kumar, Department of Library and Information Science, Tumkur University. His research titled "ICT Literacy Competencies among Postgraduate Students of Library and Information Science in South Indian Universities: A Study" earned him this prestigious recognition.Manjunatha G. from Palavvanahalli village, Hiriyur Taluk, Chitradurga District and is the son of Smt. Lokamatha and Late Sri G. R. Gangadharappa.

Mysore

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, GANGARAJU. H.S, Residing at Bengaluru have changed my name as H.S. GANGAIAH, vide affidavit dated 29/10/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, ARUN Shankrappa Gulagalajambagi S/o Shankrappa Gangappa Gulagalajambagi R/o B12-103, Alur BDA Villa Phase 2, Type 3, Alur, Bengaluru -562123 have changed my name from Arun Shankrappa Gulagalajambagi to Arun Gulagalajambagi vide Affidavit no. 20044 dated 28/10/2025.

GIREESHA E. Kyathagondanahalli, Yadalagatta, Chitradurga-577522, have changed my name to GIRISH E. vide affidavit dated- 28/10/2025

Lost

MISSING ORIGINAL Possession certificate bearing PR NO. 146/82-83 dated 12.7.1982 issued by BDA for site No. 68, in BSK 3rd stage, 3rd phase, 6th block to Sri M.L. Narayana Sastry. Phone No. 9980120044

Centre forms expert panel to introduce AI in curriculum

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union government will introduce a curriculum on Artificial Intelligence in all schools from Class 3 onwards, with the ministry of education asking stakeholder organisations to design the curriculum for the 2026-27 academic session.

The ministry has asked the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), along with states and Union Territories, to design a curriculum under the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 through a consultative process.

"Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking (AI & CT) will reinforce the concept of learning, thinking, and teaching, and will gradually expand towards the idea of 'AI for Public Good'," the ministry said in a release.

"This initiative marks a nascent yet significant step towards ethical use of AI to solve complex challenges, as the technology will be organically embedded from the foundational stage, beginning in Grade 3," it added.

The department of school education formed a panel after holding consultation with stakeholders on Wednesday.

After row, Patil asks KSTDC to explain Wayanad package ad

'Corpn promoted tour package to Priyanka Vadra's LS seat'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tourism Minister H K Patil has sought an explanation from the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) on its advertisement promoting Wayanad in Kerala, which is represented by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Lok Sabha.

The KSTDC, in an October 28 tweet, promoted a two-night and three-day tour package to Wayanad saying: "Seeking thrill or tranquility? Find both in Wayanad! Trek scenic trails, chase waterfalls & meet the wild with KSTDC. Your perfect nature escape awaits."

The Opposition BJP criticised this, and said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was trying to save his chair by "high command appeasement."

R ASHOKA
Leader of the Opposition in Assembly

"You (Siddaramaiah) signed off Rs 10 crore of Karnataka taxpayers' money to Wayanad at lightning speed. You gave away Rs 15 lakh to the family of a man killed by an elephant. You announced building 100 houses in Wayanad after a landslide. You used KSTDC, Karnataka's own tourism corporation, to promote tourism in Wayanad, Priyanka Gandhi's constituency."

Reacting to criticism, Patil said: "I've asked the KSTDC managing director to explain why the ad was issued, its intention and whether or not we have any hotel there (in Wayanad)."

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka asked Siddaramaiah why he was behaving like "Wayanad's district collector and fund raiser".

In a tweet, Ashoka said: "You (Siddaramaiah) signed off Rs 10 crore of Karnataka taxpayers' money to Wayanad at lightning speed. You gave away Rs 15 lakh to the family of a man killed by an elephant. You announced building 100 houses in Wayanad after a landslide. You used KSTDC, Karnataka's own tourism corporation, to promote tourism in Wayanad, Priyanka Gandhi's constituency."

Ashoka reminded Siddaramaiah about the recent floods in North Karnataka. "Where's flood relief for Kalaburagi, Raichur, Yadgir, Bidar, Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Belagavi? Where's the urgency? What are your priorities?" he said.

BJP MLC CT Ravi, a former tourism minister, wondered if Wayanad belonged to Karnataka, or KSTDC to Kerala. "This Congress government is mortgaging the state's honour just to please its leader," he said.

Defence response of the frog. DH PHOTO

Two distinct defensive behaviours of frogs revealed

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian frog hunters have reported two distinct defensive behaviours in frogs, revealing how much still remains to be discovered about the natural history of these amphibians.

When threatened, a species found in Arunachal Pradesh can bite and release a shriek while another from Kerala raises its body to intimidate the enemy.

Frogs exhibit a wide array of defensive mechanisms to reduce predation risk, from avoiding detection to counterattacking when threatened.

Of the 7,876 known species globally, around 650 reportedly display such behaviours, including biting and body-raising. However, these natural history observations are seldom documented in Indian species.

A Delhi University team has now described two previously unreported anti-predator behaviours in Indian frogs in their study that details a biting response accompanied by a unique warning call in the Apatani Horned Toad and a body-raising display in the Bicoloured Frog.

"These are the first records of biting and body-raising as defensive strategies among India's 419 known frog species," said team leader S D Biju, an internationally known researcher on Indian frogs.

The nocturnal Apatani Horned Toad, endemic to Arunachal Pradesh, relies on its cryptic, leaf litter-like colouration to remain undetected during the day.

When threatened or approached, it inflates its body, emits a sharp call, and may even bite the intruder—behaviours first noticed during field photography and later confirmed experimentally using a twig as a simulated threat.

The Bicoloured Frog, endemic to the Western Ghats and easily recognised by its strikingly contrasting dorsal and ventral body colouration, shows a different behaviour.

This species is diurnal and can be found on the forest floor among leaf litter. When disturbed, it extends its limbs vertically, lifting its body off the ground in a posture thought to make it appear larger and more intimidating.

Such a "body-raising" display was observed during photography in the wild and subsequently tested using a threat stimulus.

"A variety of defence behaviours are known in frogs, but they are not as frequently reported. These new observations in Indian frogs are just an example of how much about the natural history and behaviours of our native species remains either undocumented or completely unknown," said Biju.

The study has appeared in the latest issue of the journal Herpetological Notes.

AICC stricture need of the hour, say Kerala leaders

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The AICC's warning to Congress leaders in Kerala aspiring for the chief minister post has brought cheers to the local leaders and workers as well as its coalition partners.

Senior party leaders, including AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, V D Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala, are the key CM aspirants, while former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee presidents K Sudhakaran and K Muraleedharan are also hoping to land the job.

A few months ago, Congress working committee member Shashi Tharoor had shared on social media a survey that found him as the top choice as the United Democratic Front (UDF) chief minister candidate. Despite several efforts by the AICC to put an end to groupism by revamping the state leadership, more were emerging.

There was also rising concern among leaders that Venugopal was becoming more active in Kerala politics these days and was trying to bring his loyalists to key party posts. The recent reconstitution of the KPCC leadership as well as the Youth Congress, witnessed leaders expressing their differences openly.

A large section in the Congress, as well as its coalition partners, including the Indian Union Muslim League, have conveyed their concerns that the power struggle among the Congress leaders could play the spoilsport for the UDF's chances, as it did during the 2021 assembly elections.

UDF's victory

Now, the AICC has said that no one will be projected as a chief ministerial face ahead of the Assembly elections, and the priority should be to work unitedly to ensure UDF's victory.

"The high command's intervention has come at the right time, as the local body polls are expected to be announced any time and before the dust settles, the assembly elections will be announced. Things need to be set straight in the party before the electioneering so that the bitter experience the UDF suffered in 2021 won't repeat in 2026," a UDF local leader said.

MIGHTY FALL

People gather at the site after a crane engaged in bridge construction overturned and fell onto a truck, killing two persons and leaving others feared trapped, in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. PTI PHOTO

Motorist injured in road rage attack in JP Nagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 29-year-old man sustained head injuries after he was allegedly attacked by another person following a minor altercation in JP Nagar on Wednesday.

The incident occurred around 11.20 am near 26th Main Road, JP Nagar 6th Phase, when the victim, Pratik Tarafdar, was on his way to work. Tarafdar, employed as a coordinator in a game development company, told the police that a scooter rider coming from the opposite direction scraped his motorcycle. The unidentified man stopped, snatched Tarafdar's bike keys, and began dangling them. Tarafdar managed to retrieve the keys, following which the assailant attacked him with a sharp weapon, causing injuries to his head.

"Since I did not have a local guardian, I went directly to my office. They helped me go to the hospital and get stitches," he told reporters. The Puttenahalli police have registered a case. Investigation is underway.

D'sthala SIT pastes copies of notices on houses of activists

MANGALURU, DHNS: Special Investigation Team (SIT) pasted copies of legal notices on the houses of activists Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Girish Mattannavar, T Jayanth and Vittal Gowda.

SIT swung into act after the activists had claimed on not having received any notices. According to SIT sources, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) permits dispatching of legal notices through electronic means, including email and WhatsApp.

'Notices to be served'

"Since the accused were already communicating with us through WhatsApp and emails, we considered it appropriate and legally valid to serve the notices through the same medium," informed a source in SIT.

"But the accused later began raising objections, alleging that they had not been formally served with notices. They are now creating unnecessary hurdles by claiming non-receipt of the notices. To avoid any complications, we also have provided them with hard copies of the same notices," SIT sources told *DH*.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and most places over Coastal Karnataka
Forecast Oct 31: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	26	19.4	1.8
Bidar	24.6	20.5	9.4
Vijayapura	31	21.5	00
Dharwad	26.8	20	1.8
Haveri	28	19.2	00
Kalaburagi	27.8	21.8	3.6
Raichur	27.4	22	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31	23	3.8
Karwar	30.4	23.1	39.3
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.1	24.6	TR

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	26.4	21.8	4.5
Bengaluru	26.6	18.9	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29	19.1	00
Davangere	27	20	00
Hassan	26.6	NA	00
Mysuru	27.4	17	01
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28	17.6	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	29	20.1	00
Kolkata	30	24.5	51
Mumbai	34.5	24.5	00
Chennai	33.9	25.5	00
Pune	30.9	19.5	20
Hyderabad	24.2	21.8	35
Th'puram	31.6	24.2	05

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ALUMINUM WASTE FOR SALE

Sealed Tenders are invited for the disposal of the following Scrapped Aluminum wastes from our Press at Bangalore, Dharwad , Mangalore, Harihara, Mysore, Gulbarga and Hospet.

Details	Location - wise quantity in Kgs per month						
	Bangalore	Dharwad	Mangalore	Harihara	Mysore	Gulbarga	Hospet
Scrapped Aluminum Sheets	4-5 Tons	2-3 Tons	1-2 Tons	1-2 Tons	2 Tons	1-2 Tons	1-2 Tons

For clarification, contact Procurement Head at **babu.v@printersmysore.co.in**, **venu.tl@printersmysore.co.in**, 25880340 /430 Mob: 9900042650. Sealed Tenders/e-mail may be addressed within 7 days from the date of this advertisement.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-37:2025-26 Dated:- 29.10.2025
SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work:- General:- Two cover System:- Head of Account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintanance:-(1) Annual maintenance of road from mallapanahalli gate (sh-47) connecting kittadal (sh-220) via doddathekalavatti, bukkasagara, kanchipura from ch 0.00 km to 2.00 km and 3.20 km to 15.66 km (W.I. 28258) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:- 64.63
Category-II(A) Resereved :- Head of Account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintanance :-(2) Annual maintenance of Road from Shreerampura(sh-47) connecting kanchipura via vengalaapura, kadavagere from ch 0.00 km to 14.45 km, in Hosadurga taluk (W.I. 28256) (Reserved for CAT-II(A) category) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:- 63.72
Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 05-11-2025 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 06-11-2025 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 07-11-2025 Time: 16.15 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 10-11-2025 Time: 11.00 Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/448/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Chitradurga.**

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION
(A JV Company of KPCL, BHEL & IFCIL)
CIN: U40101KA2009PLC049582
No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3579/CALL-2 Date: 24.10.2025
ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)
Following e-tender is published in GoK e-portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Under "WORKS" category as per YTPS requirements for **Providing of shelter to air washer Units - 1 & 2 Phase-1.** EMD: **Rs.32,000/-.** Last date for receipt of tenders: **03.11.2025, 16.00 Hrs**. All relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (M)-4,** YTPS, RPCL, Yermarus-584134, Dist. Raichur. Telefax: 08532-286003. Mobile: +919916233205.

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
KUNDAPURA DIVISION, KUNDAPURA
No:C2:CR/05/Timber Auction/2025-26 Date: 28-10-2025
KARNATAKA FOREST CODE, 1976
APPENDIX XVIII A (Rule 64)
Detailed Notification for e-Tender cum Auction of Timber in Vandse, Hardalli-Mandalli, Hosmar depot of Kundapura Division Kundapura.
It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, timber and other forest produce stocked and lotted in the **Vandse, Hardalli-Mandalli, Seethanadi, Hosmar** Government Timber Depot of **Kundapura Division** will be sold through the public e-tender cum auction method in one or more sessions on, **Hardalli-Mandalli 17-11-2025, Seethanadi 18-11-2025, Hosmar 19-11-2025 and Vandse 20-11-2025 from 10.00 A.M** till the bidding for all lots is completed. The sale Conducting Officer will be the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Kundapura Division .
Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Kundapura Division, Kundapura
DIPR/ADU/KSMCA/492/25-26 Dt. 30.10.2025

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ತೇಗೂರು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು–577 133
Phone: 08262-295347 ಜಾಲತಾಣ: https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in
ಇ ಮೇಲ್:- directorcims2020@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಚಿ.ವೈ.ವಿ.ಸಂ/ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್/29/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:25–10–2025
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ವಿಷಯ: ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗದೆ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ 44 ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಮೆರಿಟ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ
2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸಿನ ಪ್ರವೇಶಾತಿಗೆ KEA ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲಿಂಗ್ ನಡೆಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗದೇ ಉಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 44 ಸೀಟುಗಳಿಗೆ KEA ಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿ.ಇ.ಟಿ (CET) ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೀಟ್ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಸದರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ KEA ಇಂದ ಸೀಟ್ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸಲೇಶನ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮೆರಿಟ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕವಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ Walk in Admission ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಮೂಲಕ Offline Counselling ನಡೆಸಿ ಸೀಟು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ದಿನಾಂಕ 29–10–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ದಿನಾಂಕ 30–10–2025 ರಂದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲಿಂಗ್ ನಡೆಸಿ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 1.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಸೀಟು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸೀಟು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅದೇ ದಿನದಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಡೀನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: VJP/Pro.Dvn/EEE/2025-26 /F-302/2589 Date: 30.10.2025
CAUTION NOTICE
Construction of 110kV SC line on DC towers from 110kV Ukkali sub-station to proposed 110kV Hadagali sub-station for a distance of 15.589 kms along with Construction of 110kV Terminal Bay at 110kV Ukkali sub-station in Vijayapura Taluk & District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged **on or after the date: 01.11.2025.** The power line passes through Ukkali, Kaggod and Hadagali village limit.
The general public are here by requested to keep away from this line and they are also requested not to tie the animals to the towers, not to throw green sticks, wires on the line, and not to climb towers of the line. KPTCL will not be held responsible for any accidents which may occur due to violation of the above said instruction.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Ele)., Project Division, KPTCL, Division Office Complex, Bagalkote Road, Vijayapura

Government of Karnataka
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
District Stadium Haveri-581110
Tel: 08375-232070, 08375-232443 | Email: adysshvr@gmail.com
Tender No: ADYES /H/JTKKH/02/2025-26 Dated: 29-10-2025
Short-Term Tender Notification
(Through E-procurement Portal Only)
Subject: Regarding the invitation of short-term tender through e-procurement for obtaining the services Out Sources Employs of District Stadium, Taluk Stadium and Sports Hostels for a period of two years as per KTPP rules for the year 2025-26.
****
According to short-term e-procurement tender has been invited as per KTPP rules to procure the services of guards, cleaners, caretakers, data entry operators, markers, administrators, warden, caretaker, sanitation workers, and security personnel through an external resource agency for the maintenance of the district stadium, taluk stadiums of the Youth Empowerment and Sports Department and for the maintenance of the sports school for a period of two years in the year 2025-26.

Sl No.	Particulars	Tender Amount	EMD amount
1	Procurement of Out Sources Employs to stadiums and District Sports Hostel at Haveri	Rs. 1,60,964.00	Rs. 1,07,30,928.00

Tender Opening Date And Details

S. No.	Tender Name	Date of receipt of application	Tender Rules	Last date of submission of application	Tender Opening Date Time
01	Tender for the provision of staff services for the maintenance of District, Taluk Stadiums and Sports School	from 29-10-2025 to 06-11-2025	In two envelopes (Technical and Financial)	06-11-2025 PM: 5.00 PM	07-11-2025 PM 5.00 PM

The tender shall submit a notarized hard copy along with original documents of the undertaking letters and solvency letters to the tender inviting authority before the last date for submission of tenders.
In case of urgent office meetings and other urgent matters, the tender opening date will be postponed. For further information, the Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, District Stadium, Haveri Tel. No.: 08375-232443 may be contacted.
Sd/- Assistant Director,
dipr/hvr/dipo/469/25-26 Department of youth Empowerment and Sports, Haveri

AUCTION NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.
1) CB_ASHOK LEYLAND 3718IL YOM – 2015 Reg No – KA28C3565
2) TATA MOTORS LTD. - TATA LPT 3118/52 COWL CHASSIS GOODS, YOM – 2014 Reg No – KA29A8601
3) CB_CONCRETE_MIXER_PUMP _MPD_40_SUNBEAM YOM – 2024 Engine No 54001171
4) CB_SKID_STEER_LOADER _S70_BOBCAT YOM – 2024 Engine No 1RC1709PIN
5) CB_AL 3123 FULLY BUILT TIPPER YOM – - Reg No – KA32D4592
6) CB_PRO_3019_CBC YOM – - Reg No – KA01AQ0556
7) CB_MAHINDRA_BLAZO _42_BULKER YOM – - Reg No – KA63A2458
8) CB_MAHINDRA_BLAZO _42_BULKER YOM – - Reg No – KA63A2459
9) CB_Tata LPT 1112 Fully Built YOM – Reg No – KA597597
10) CB_EICHER_PRO_30_15_GOODS YOM – 2022 Reg No – KA9AA2851
11) MAHINDRA BOLERO PICK-UP YOM – 2021 Reg No – KA16AA0305
12) CB_EICHER_PRO_6055_ TRACTOR_TRAILER YOM – - Reg No – KA34D1342
13) CB_BHARATBENZ_1926C _TIPPER YOM – Reg No – KA664130
14) Bolero Maxi Truck YOM – Reg No – KA16AA8568
15) CB_TATA_INTRA_V_10 YOM – 2022 Engine No KA41D3842
16) CB_EICHER_PRO_6055 _TRACTOR_TRAILER YOM – Engine No KA34D1343
17) CB_ASHOK_LEYLAND_GP4825 _COWL_CHASSIS_GOODS YOM – 2022 Engine No KA34C5311
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 31.10.2025
(Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)
BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,
22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE
KARNATAKA – 560001
OR
Contact: Prashanthkumar S
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Contact / 080 - 61564202

Kerala rewrites poverty story as landmark mission reaches milestone

CM Vijayan set to declare Kerala the first Indian state to eliminate extreme poverty

KORAH ABRAHAM
BENGALURU, DHNS

This November 1, Kerala won't just mark its birth — it will mark a bold milestone.

On its formation day, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will declare Kerala the first Indian state to eliminate extreme poverty, capping a mission that reached over 64,000 families.

This follows a targeted campaign that reached over 1 lakh people with food, shelter, healthcare and income.

Speaking to *DH*, Kerala's Minister for Local Self-Government, MB Rajesh, said that this is the first time in India that micro-plans were prepared to support every family in the extreme poverty category.

"We began by identifying all families living in extreme poverty. Kudumbashree and the Local Self-Government (LSG) bodies conducted the survey, and we found 64,006 such families. Then we studied what made them extremely poor and created specific micro-plans to address causes."

The mission began soon after the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government returned to power in 2021. The Cabinet resolved to eradicate extreme poverty, which is defined as severe deprivation in four key areas: nutritious food, safe housing, basic income and health.

Using these indices, the government identified families who had slipped through the state's extensive welfare net — those without income, housing or access to healthcare. Kudumbashree, ASHA workers, NGOs, community volunteers and government departments, all coordinated by LSG bodies, took part in the mammoth exercise.

Through multiple rounds of community participation, the initial list of 1,18,309 families was refined to 87,158 households. Ultimately, 64,006 families, comprising 1,03,099 individuals, were prioritised for targeted intervention.

According to data from the LSG Department, 21,263 families received essential documents such as ration cards and Aadhaar; 29,427 were provided with medical care; three daily meals were ensured for 20,648 individuals through community kitchens; and nearly 4,000 families were allotted housing. Additionally, 5,651 families were given up to Rs 2 lakh each to renovate houses.

Decades of reform

Economist and former finance minister TM Thomas Isaac sees the achievement as the culmination of Kerala's long history of social reform.

"Eradicating poverty is not a one-time programme," Isaac said. "In 1973, 60% of Kerala's population lived in poverty. Land reforms in 1971, rising wages for agricultural, unorganised workers, and the decentralisation drive of 1996 brought about structural changes. By 2011–12, poverty had fallen to 11%, and in 2023, it stood at just 0.5%. This multidimensional process made it possible to target the remaining poor households directly," he told *DH*.

DIGNITY FOR ALL

- Mission reaches 64,006 families left out of welfare net
- Micro-plans created for every family in extreme poverty
- 4,000 families receive homes; 5,651 get funds to renovate
- 20,648 people ensured three daily meals via community kitchens
- 29,427 families access medical care; 21,263 get essential documents

Align MGNREGA funds with water conservation goals, states told

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Thursday urged states to align their MGNREGA plans with the recent directive mandating dedicated expenditure on water-related works, including recharge, water harvesting and source protection.

It also called for the creation of 'Protected Drinking Water Zones', enforcement of inspection protocols, and stronger community vigilance through Village Water and Sanitation Committees.

The issue was discussed during the second edition of the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The event, held virtually, aimed to strengthen local water governance and promote source sustainability under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The session brought together over 800 participants, including district collectors, mission directors and state teams.

Addressing the gathering, Additional Secretary and Mission Director of the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) Kamal Kishore Soan urged deputy commissioners to integrate water conservation and recharge activities into their MGNREGA planning.

Justice Surya Kant to take charge on Nov 24

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Justice Surya Kant was on Thursday appointed as the Chief Justice of India from November 24, 2025, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced on X.

Justice Surya Kant

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24th November, 2025," Meghwal wrote.

With the notification, Justice Kant is set to become the 53rd Chief Justice of India. He would remain in the post for 15 months, from November 24 to February 9, 2027.

Justice Kant, who was elevated as a judge of the SC on May 24, 2019, is the first person from Haryana to occupy the top post in the judiciary.

On Monday, incumbent CJI B R Gavai, who will superannuate on November 23, recommended the name of Justice Surya Kant as his successor.

CBSE Board exams date sheet out, to begin from Feb 17

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct class 10 and 12 board exams from February 17, 2026, officials announced on Thursday.

While the class 10 exams will conclude on March 10, class 12 exams will end on April 9, 2026, according to the final datesheet.

This is the first time that the CBSE released the final datesheet nearly 110 days in advance.

The board had announced a tentative datesheet last month. The final datesheet has certain changes including adding an extra day for class 10 exams.

This is the first time that board exams for class 10 will be conducted twice in an academic session. The second edition of exam is scheduled from May 15 to June 1, 2026.

Govt to introduce stringent seed law in Budget Session

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Thursday that the government plans to introduce legislation with stringent provisions to regulate seed quality during the budget session of Parliament early next year.

Addressing an event on Farmers Producer Organisations, Chouhan said the amendments are aimed at ensuring quality inputs for the farming community.

"We are going to bring the seed law in the Budget Session of Parliament (early 2026)," Chouhan said, adding that there would be stringent provisions to check the sale and distribution of substandard quality seeds.

He said genetically modified seeds are not allowed, and research is underway to develop better varieties.

Mamata blames EC for deaths linked to SIR

Two suicides trigger protest against voter roll exercise

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

With another suspected suicide in West Bengal, allegedly driven by fears of disenfranchisement, the ruling Trinamool Congress has intensified its criticism of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, accusing the Election Commission of fuelling a climate of fear at the BJP's behest.

POLITICAL FLASHPOINT

- Two suicides in Bengal allegedly linked to disenfranchisement fears
- Mamata vows to fight 'until the last drop of blood' to protect citizens' rights
- BJP questions suicide note's authenticity, demands CBI probe

"Until the last drop of our blood, we will fight to protect the rights of the people and to defeat the nefarious agenda of the BJP and its allies to tear apart the social fabric of our nation," Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee posted on X on Thursday, vowing to resist any attempt to brand a legitimate citizen of the country as an "outsider".

Mamata Banerjee

On Wednesday, 95-year-old Kshitish Majumdar died by suicide in Ilambazar, Birbhum. According to police, his family said he had been distressed over fears of losing his right to vote following the SIR.

Majumdar is the second such case in West Bengal, after the EC announced the SIR across 12 states and Union Territories on Monday.

Earlier, 57-year-old Pradeep Kar died by suicide in Panihati, North 24 Parganas, leaving behind a note blaming the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for his death. Kar had reportedly been anxious about the possibility of an NRC-like process being implemented in West Bengal, similar to neighbouring Assam.

The TMC has called the SIR a covert attempt to initiate an NRC-like process in West Bengal.

With the BJP banking on the SIR to challenge the ruling party in the 2026 elections, Mamata's party has weaponised the deaths to mount a fierce protest against the exercise.

"Who will answer for these avoidable, politically inflicted tragedies? Will the home minister accept responsibility? Will the BJP and its allies, under whose watch this fear psychosis has spread, find the courage to speak out?" the TMC supremo wrote on X.

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee visited Pradeep Kar's residence on Wednesday and blamed the BJP and the EC for his death. The party held protest rallies across the state on Wednesday and Thursday.

The BJP, meanwhile, pointed to a relative's claim that Kar had lost four fingers on his right hand, questioning the authenticity of the suicide note.

The party has demanded a CBI probe into the incident.

Three days, 17 kids, one fake audition: Inside Mumbai's hostage horror

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

After Mumbai Police safely rescued 17 children from a dramatic hostage situation at a Powai studio on Thursday, what remains baffling is how Rohit Arya — who died from a bullet wound during the operation — managed to conduct a fake web series audition over three days.

Around 100 boys and girls turned up on day one; by day three, only 17 shortlisted children remained, all from Mumbai and the wider MMR region.

Police are now piecing together the sequence of events by speaking to residents, the rescued children and their parents.

Eyewitness Dinesh Gosavi said the auditions had been ongoing for three days. "There was panic when the kids didn't come out during lunch," he recalled. "Then came a message that 17 children had been kidnapped. When police arrived, they confirmed the abduction and safely rescued the children."

Gosavi urged authorities to investigate the legality of the studio and demanded strict punishment for the perpetrator. He also pointed out that many parents now aspire to see their children enter the entertainment industry.

Police are examining Arya's digital footprint to uncover more about his background and how he lured the students.

"It was a normal day until the children didn't come out for lunch. That's when panic set in," said a bystander. "Police quickly stepped in, surrounded the complex, and carried out the rescue operation successfully."

ECHOES OF THE PAST: SIMILAR CRISES

May 25, 2003:
CISF jawan **Raj Namdeo (22)** shot dead his Deputy Commandant AR Karanjkar and took six colleagues hostage at Mumbai airport before surrendering. Reportedly, he acted after being denied leave. Namdeo was arrested, later released on bail, and subsequently disappeared. An arrest warrant remains pending.

October 27, 2008:
Mumbai witnessed a similar hostage crisis 17 years ago when a youth from Bihar, **Rahul Raj,** was killed in a police shootout after taking 12 passengers hostage on a BEST bus in Kurla. The 25-year-old from Patna allegedly wanted to kill MNS chief Raj Thackeray. While some reports suggested Rahul acted out of anger over the MNS agitation against North Indians, others claimed he was mentally unstable.

November 26, 2008:
During the 26/11 terror strikes, hostages were taken at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel near the Gateway of India, the Oberoi-Trident Hotel at Marine Drive, and Chabad (Nariman) House in Colaba. The attackers had also planned to seize hostages at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus but failed.

Police at the site where 19 people, including 17 children, were rescued from a studio in Mumbai's Powai area, on Thursday. PTI

Who was Rohit Arya, the man behind the scare?

MUMBAI, DHNS: As the Powai hostage crisis drew to a close after the kidnapper Rohit Arya was killed in an encounter, the Mumbai Police and the Crime Branch-CID have launched massive probe to know more about the 50-year-old man.

Airguns and chemicals were recovered from the scene, which indicates that he was planning the fake audition sessions for a long time.

Arya wanted to speak to former School Education Minister and Shiv Sena leader Deepak Kesarkar. Rohit Arya had started the Swachata Monitor concept in Maharashtra in 2023, and had alleged that he was not paid dues.

On his part, Kesarkar said, "Rohit Arya was running a scheme called Swachha Monitor. He had participated in the government's campaign. In that regard, the department was saying that he had directly collected fees from some children, but Arya said he had not collected any such fee. He should have spoken to the department and resolved the issue. It was wrong to hold children hostage."

According to Kesarkar, he had helped Arya as a gesture. "I personally helped them when I was the Education Minister. I have given money myself,but all the formalities have to be completed for the government's payment. Therefore, I do not think their claim of Rs 2 crore is correct," Kesarkar said.

Reacting to it, Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar said, "Rohit Arya has alleged that despite completing projects for the school education department, payments worth Rs 2 crore remain outstanding. The government refuses to waive loans, so farmers are committing suicide. On the other hand, contractors' bills are delayed, leading contractors to give up their lives, and in Mumbai, this individual held 17 children captive."

India seeks fresh details from US on 26/11 attack accused Rana

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian authorities have sought fresh details from the US based on the interrogation of 26/11 Mumbai terror accused Tahawwur Rana, officials said on Thursday.

On a request from the NIA, which is probing the 2008 terror attack case, India has invoked the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty to seek the details, officials said.

They said necessary communication has been made through designated channels to process the probe agency's request. "Based on what transpired during Rana's interrogation, details have been sought from the US authorities through the MLAT route," a senior official said.

SIR to reach J&K in April 2026; focus on removing illegal migrants

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to be undertaken in April–May next year, once the harsh winter ends in the twin Union Territories (UTs).

While the Election Commission (EC) recently announced the SIR in 12 States and Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh, along with a few others, were excluded from the current phase because of the severe winter that begins in November and continues till April in most parts of the region.

"The SIR exercise in both the UTs is expected to be undertaken in April–May," sources said, adding that the Commission has already instructed its representatives in the two UTs to begin preliminary groundwork before the formal process begins.

Under the SIR, registered electors will have to fill fresh enumeration forms to confirm their eligibility. To remain on the electoral roll, voters must trace their names or those of their kin to an electoral roll from the last intensive revision held about two decades ago. Those unable to do so will have to submit documentary proof to establish their citizenship and eligibility.

In J&K, officials said that the revision will be closely monitored to prevent possible inclusion of Bangladeshis, Pakistanis or Myanmar nationals in the electoral rolls.

In 2021, the State Election Commission had to cancel the election for two District Development Council (DDC) seats, as it was established that the winners belonged to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and had managed to enrol them as voters in the UT. A re-election was later held in both seats.

Political sensitivity

The exercise assumes special importance in J&K, where voter list revisions have often been politically contentious. During the last major update in 2022, over seven lakh new voters were added, pushing the total electorate beyond 83 lakh.

Opposition parties, however, alleged that the process could allow non-locals to be enrolled, describing it as an attempt at "electoral manipulation."

Elections to the panchayats, municipalities, Block Development Councils and DDCs are due in J&K, but there appears to be no indications that they will be held immediately.

INVISIBLE THREAT

Toxic air killed 17L Indians in 2022: Lancet report

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Toxic air killed an estimated 17 lakh-plus Indians in 2022, a global analysis has estimated, noting the casualty figure is 38% higher than what was estimated in 2010.

From an economic perspective, the monetised value of premature mortality due to outdoor air pollution in the same year amounted to over $339 billion, which is equivalent to 9.5% of India's GDP, it says.

The alarming statistics are part of this year's Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change report that reveals how continued reliance on fossil fuels and a failure to adapt to climate change is being paid in people's lives and livelihoods worldwide.

There were over 1,718,000 estimated deaths in India that are attributable to exposure to PM-2.5—tiny dust and soot particles that penetrate lungs and travel in the bloodstream impacting health.

Of this, fossil fuels (coal and liquid gas) contributed to 7,52,000 (44%) deaths in 2022, while coal accounted for 3,94,000 deaths, primarily from its use in power plants.

An elderly lady wearing a mask sits along a road amid smoggy conditions in New Delhi on Thursday. AFP

Household air pollution was associated with 113 deaths per 100,000 individuals. The mortality rate from such pollution is more in rural (125) than urban (99) areas, suggesting higher use of polluting fuels like wood, coal and dung in the countryside.

According to the report, fossil fuels continue to account for nearly all of road transport energy in India (96%). As of 2022, coal made up nearly half of the total energy supply (46%) and three-fourths of total electricity in India, while renewable options made up 2% and 10% respectively.

Prepared by a team of 128 experts from 71 institutions, the meta-analysis red-flags 2.5 million deaths worldwide every year that are attributable to the air pollution coming from continued use of fossil fuels.

This is straining national budgets: as fossil fuel prices soared, governments collectively spent $956 billion on net fossil fuel subsidies in 2023. Oil and gas giants, on the other hand, kept expanding their production plans to a scale three times greater than a liveable planet can support.

Besides air pollution, the experts also looked at how other indicators of climate change such as heatwave, sea-level rise, vulnerability to infectious diseases and loss of tree cover were impacting people's health.

For instance, heat exposure resulted in a loss of 247 billion labour hours in India every year. This is 124% more than what was experienced between 1990-1999. The agricultural sector accounted for 66% and the construction sector accounted for 20% of the losses in 2024.

Pinarayi makes welfare pitch to shift focus from PM SHRI setback

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Pinarayi Vijayan government in Kerala suffered a major embarrassment on Wednesday as it was forced to freeze the Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) agreement. Vijayan, however, exhibited his political shrewdness by shifting the focus through the announcement of a slew of sops.

With the local-body and Assembly polls imminent, it was quite certain that the state government would announce sops as part of its efforts to script a hat-trick of victories with the 2026 Assembly elections. It was widely anticipated that the sops would be announced at the special session of the Assembly on November 1, marking the state's Formation Day. Hence, it came as a surprise when Pinarayi rolled out the welfare measures early, shifting the focus to the state's finances.

Pinarayi Vijayan

Meanwhile, the state government's decision to freeze the PM SHRI scheme, pending a study by a Cabinet subcommittee, also seemed to be a face-saver for the CPI.

The CPI's ideological concern was that PM SHRI was the Central government's attempt to impose the RSS-BJP agenda in school curricula through the National Education Policy. However, the party was more agitated over being kept in the dark even after the Education Department signed the MoU with the Centre.

By getting the CPI to agree to the Cabinet subcommittee review, the CPM conveyed to the Centre that it had bought time and not shut the doors. On the other hand, the CPI could claim that it made Pinarayi review the decision.

The fresh sops announced on Wednesday imposed an additional burden of around Rs 10,000 crore on the cash-strapped exchequer. The focus is now on the state's capability to meet the commitments.

Finance Minister K N Balagopal said enough funds could be raised through effective tax collection. He added that no tax would be imposed on people to meet these demands.

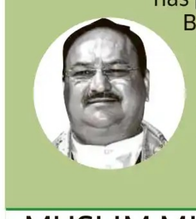
COUNTER

"He (Nitish Kumar) is definitely the BJP's 'Chunavi dulha', but for the post (of CM) he is not the 'dulha' (groom). The BJP, under a conspiracy, is using Nitish. The I.N.D.I.A bloc was making him the prime ministerial face. Today, he is only a face for the sake of elections.

Akhilesh Yadav
Samajwadi Party president

V/S

Before 2005, Bihar was living in an era of darkness, but now there is light all around. Bihar has progressed from being a BIMARU state to a leading state, and it was made possible through people's power to vote."



JP Nadda
BJP president

MUSLIM MLAS IN BIHAR POLLS

Total seats: **243**

Muslim population: **2.3 crore** (17.7%)

- Congress has Muslim MLAs since 1952
- RJD has Muslim MLAs since 2000
- JD(U) has Muslim MLAs since 2005 (Oct), except in 2020
- BJP's lone Muslim MLA is Saba Zafar (2010)

*Since no govt could be formed in Bihar after the February 2005 elections, fresh polls were held in October the same year

Poll diary

Vote for Samrat, Modi will make him a big man: Shah

Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asserted that Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary would be made "big man" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the assembly polls. He made the remark at a rally in Tarapur assembly constituency, where Choudhary is the BJP candidate. "As Samrat Choudhary said in his speech, he was born here. We convinced the local JD(U) MLA Rajeev Singh to give up his seat in favour of Choudhary. Folks of Tarapur, people in other places request us to get a ministerial berth for their MLAs. Your MLA is a readymade Deputy CM," Shah said.

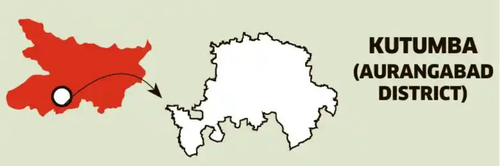
BJP complains to CEO over Rahul's 'dance' remark

The BJP on Thursday lodged a written complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with the Chief Election Officer (CEO) of Bihar for his comment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would do "anything for votes, even dance". The party sought immediate and exemplary action against Gandhi. The complaint read, "Such comments are personal, mocking, and intended to insult the dignity of the highest constitutional office of the Republic of India."

EC reviews measure to check entry of drugs in state

The Election Commission on Thursday reviewed measures taken to check the entry of anti-social elements, drugs and freebies in poll-bound Bihar from neighbouring states and Nepal. The coordination meeting was attended by top officials of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Officials from the Union Home Ministry, enforcement agencies and Railways were also part of the deliberations.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



KUTUMBA (AURANGABAD DISTRICT)

RAJESH RAM
Congress
2020: Won

LALAN RAM
HAM
2020: Second runner-up

The job pitch is loud. The caste pull, louder

From Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj to Tejashwi's RJD, every party is talking employment this election, but voters still follow caste cues

SUMIT PANDE
PURNIA, DHNS

The sun is a molten disc rushing down to call it a day behind a mango orchard. Somewhere beyond, an undulating sing-song chorus arises — women bidding farewell to the sun god on the sixth day after Deepavali. Therein the name: Chhath. A festival that has spread outside Bihar with a large floating migrant population in search of employment. But once every year, they return, or try to be home with the family for Chhath.

Across the road, in an empty plot adjoining a brick kiln, yellow flags of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj flutter atop SUVs and battery rickshaws. A motley crowd waits for the poll strategist-turned-neta, campaigning for his candidates in Purnia district. We are in Baisi, where Kishor's party has fielded Shahanawaz Alam.

In election meetings, Kishor has been asking people to rise above caste and religious divisions and vote for development. Muslim votes are being used as kerosene to light Lalu's lantern, he alleges.

Mohamad Mujtaba, who has returned to his village for good after spending a decade doing small jobs in Delhi, has been waiting for an hour to hear Kishor. "Shahanawaz Bhai is a strong candidate. But the Mahagathbandhan is also in the fray," he says, not sure how the electoral battle will shape up before polling.

There is a certain curiosity about Jan Suraaj, especially among the aspirational lot — the ones who have travelled outside Bihar in search of livelihood. But will they trust him with their vote this time? It's Jan Suraaj's first innings, and the electorate remains sceptical.

People like to be on the winning side. Or to vote for the winning candidate. Except for the committed and cadres, even if there is an iota of doubt in the minds of electors about the prospects of the party or a candidate, it's difficult to hold them back.

"Jan Suraaj is a media creation. It's nowhere in the picture," says Pappu Yadav, the independent MP from Purnia considered close to the Congress.

Passengers travelling from Seemanchal to central Bihar tend to break their journey for a bowl of dahi-chooda (curd with flattened rice served with jaggery) at Dumra chowk. Mahesh Yadav, a schoolteacher, is returning from Munger with his family. He agrees with the issues raised by Kishor.

"But this is his first election. Tejashwi has also promised jobs," he says, slurping white sugary tea from earthen cups.

In its manifesto, the I.N.D.I.A bloc has promised to enact a law to give one government job per family and to regularise the status of every temporary and contractual worker. If one were to ask an I.N.D.I.A bloc leader in Bihar to name one issue that the alliance is focusing on, they will say jobs, jobs, and jobs.

Bihar gears up for phase one of voting on November 6 as campaigns gather steam. DH PHOTO

A bit too late?

But has this thrust on employment come a bit too late in the day? A sort of afterthought to tap into the sentiment created by Prashant Kishor's party as elections turn increasingly bipolar closer to the finish line. Or is it a mere reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at an election rally, where he linked the availability of cheap data with income generated by youth making social media reels?

For an alliance that started its campaign with Rahul Gandhi's vote-theft campaign in September, changing gear at the last moment won't be easy.

Ten kilometres down the road, at a roadside tea stall, a group of boys in their early twenties shares a smoke. Employment? Yes, they want. But vote, they will on the caste line. Unapologetically.

There is no ambiguity, no second thought whatsoever. Yadav for Lalu's lantern. Kushwaha and Kurmi for the JD(U)'s arrow. Bhumihar, Brahmin, Rajput, Teli and Bania for the BJP's lotus.

In India, caste is a living reality. In Bihar—so inured to caste consciousness in every sphere of life, personal and public — even non-living objects can assume a social identity depending on who is promising what.

Modi hits back at Rahul's 'drama' jibe in Chhath row

PM says he strives to obtain Unesco heritage status for festival, while Cong ridicules it as 'nautanki'

PM Narendra Modi greets a BJP leader in Chhapra. PTI

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Chhath may have ended on October 28, but the political battle in its name is escalating between the NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

A day after Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of staging a 'drama' by taking a holy dip in an artificial pond near the Yamuna during Chhath, Modi hit back at the Congress for making 'unsavoury remarks'.

Defending his gesture, Modi said he was working to secure Unesco heritage status for Chhath, one of India's most revered festivals, while the Congress was dismissing it as 'nautanki', even as lakhs of women observe the 'nirjala vrat' (fast without water) during the occasion.

In Muzaffarpur, Modi hit back at the Congress, urging voters to punish those who insult the festival. He praised Muzaffarpur's people as 'sweet as its litchis', crediting Nitish-Modi governance for peace in the region. He recalled the 2001 Golu kidnapping case and claimed over 35,000 abductions occurred during the RJD regime.

Modi sought to drive a wedge between the RJD and the Congress, claiming, "The Congress wants the RJD to lose as many seats as possible. It is bringing in leaders to campaign in Bihar who had earlier insulted Biharis in their own states."

Bihar synonymous with paper leak: Rahul

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 'betraying the youth of Bihar with hollow promises of jobs and development, even as he said that the state has become synonymous with question paper leaks.

BIHAR VOTES

"People of Bihar deserve education and jobs so that migration could stop," said Rahul, while campaigning in Nalanda district.

"Bihar has become synonymous with question paper leak. It has destroyed the careers of lakhs of youth in Bihar who have been forced to migrate to other states in search of jobs," Rahul said and promised to stop this menace if the I.N.D.I.A bloc is voted to power.

Charging Nitish as a lame-duck CM, Rahul said, "The Nitish regime has come to a standstill. I am told that Modi, Shah and Nagpur, are actually running Bihar."

Local pushback: Nitish is the brand, but his men are under fire in Nalanda

FROM THE GROUND

GYANENDRA KESHRI
KALYAN BIGHA (NALANDA), DHNS

Hari Narayan Singh is contesting the Bihar Assembly election for the 13th time. If he wins, it will mark his record 10th victory. Singh was elected six times from the now-defunct Chandi constituency and thrice from Harnaut, which includes Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's ancestral village, Kalyan Bigha.

"Hari Narayan Singh is hardly seen around. We are not happy with him. He has done nothing. We vote for Nitish ji," said Shambhu Paswan, a 48-year-old farmer from Kalyan Bigha.

Most villagers in Kalyan Bigha credit Nitish for the area's development. But resentment against the local MLA is palpable. Hari Narayan Singh, 79, has represented the Harnaut Assembly constituency since 2010. With his 2020 win, he equalled the records held by Sadanand Singh and Ramai Ram.

Several JD(U) leaders had raised concerns over Singh's candidature as early as 2020. The dissent has grown louder this time, but Nitish has once again backed the old guard.

A similar situation prevails in the neighbouring Hilsa constituency, where the JD(U) has re-nominated sitting MLA Krishnamurari Sharan, also known as Prem Mukhiya.

"After the 2020 win, Prem Mukhiya was barely seen. We don't understand how he got the ticket again," said Upendra Prasad from Tharthari.

A farmer from Lakhachak village, also in Hilsa, said he was unsure about voting for Prem Mukhiya.

"We want Nitish as the CM, he has done a lot for Nalanda. But we are unhappy with our MLA," said Janardan Singh.

Hilsa saw the closest contest in the 2020 election, with JD(U)'s Prem Mukhiya defeating RJD's Shakti Singh Yadav by just 12 votes. Yadav challenged the result in the Patna High Court. Locals still discuss claims of rigging in JD(U)'s favour.

Nalanda has been Nitish's stronghold for over three decades. Since the mid-1990s, the Samata Party and later, the JD(U), have dominated both Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. In 2020, the JD(U) won five of the seven seats in the district, losing one to the RJD.

Four-time JD(U) MLA Sunil Kumar won the 2020 election from Bihar Sharif on a BJP ticket.

Rural Development Minister Shrawon Kumar, who is considered a close aide of Nitish Kumar, is in the fray from Nalanda for the seventh consecutive time. JD(U)'s Jitendra Kumar, a five-time MLA from Asthawan, is contesting again. The seat faces a triangular contest with RJD's Ravi Ranjan Kumar and Jan Suraaj's Lata Singh, daughter of Nitish's former ally RCP Singh.

"We are unhappy with our MLA Shrawon Kumar, but we have always voted for Nitish ji. This time, it's a tough choice," said a shopkeeper in Noorsarai.

RALLY HUES

Supporters react upon the arrival of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav for a rally at a village in Darbhanga on Thursday. AFP

Gangster-turned-politician killed; JD(U) adversary blamed

PATNA, PTI: Gangster-turned-politician Dular Chand Yadav, once known for rubbing shoulders with the who's who of politics in Bihar, was allegedly shot dead near the state capital during poll campaign on Thursday.

The incident took place in Mokama, where Yadav, who had of late aligned with Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj, was said to have been involved in a clash with political rivals.

Patna (Rural) Superintendent of Police Vikram Sihag, said, "We have learnt that Yadav had received a bullet injury in his foot but died after being run over by a vehicle. More details will be known once we take the body for post-mortem examination."

He added that Yadav's family members were "not allowing anyone to get close to the body, saying they are waiting for his son to arrive".

Yadav, whose nephew Piyush Priyadarshi is contesting on a Jan Suraaj Party ticket from Mokama, was said to have had a showdown with supporters of JD(U) candidate Anant Singh.

Yadav, whose muscle power could never help him win an election, was known to be on good terms with RJD supremo Lalu Prasad and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The killing has stoked fears of electoral violence, on caste lines, in a state which has been witness to a lot of bloodshed of this type.

Sengottaiyan joins hands with rebels OPS, TTV

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Senior leader K A Sengottaiyan, who was removed from his party posts after he called for unification of the AIADMK, on Thursday met with rebel leaders, O Panneerselvam and T T V Dhinakaran at the Thevar Jayanthi event in Pasumpon.

Sengottaiyan, whose idea to bring back leaders like V K Sasikala, OPS, and TTV into the party has been shot down by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, travelled in OPS' car from Madurai to Pasumpon, a distance of 90 km.

At Pasumpon, they were joined by Dhinakaran, who welcomed Sengottaiyan's efforts to unite the AIADMK.

This is the first time that Sengottaiyan has met rebel AIADMK leaders in public, especially after his September 5 press conference in which he asked Palaniswami to initiate the process of unifying the party.

After the press conference, Sengottaiyan was sacked from his party posts, but he soon met Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed the internal affairs of the AIADMK.

Sengottaiyan choosing Thevar Jayanthi, the birth and death anniversary of Forward Bloc leader Muthuramalinga Thevar, for his meeting is significant. It will now become difficult for Palaniswami to act against Sengottaiyan, as he would claim that he was sacked for simply participating in the Thevar event.

INTERVIEW

'CM Himanta practises politics of fear and intimidation'

As Assam heads to a crucial election next year, the passing of Zubeen Garg has heated matters. Assam Congress president **Gaurav Gogoi** speaks to *DH*'s **Amrita Madhukalya** on the state's issues. Edited excerpts:

The passing of Zubeen has seen an unprecedented outpouring. How will it pan out politically?

Zubeen was fearless; he never hesitated to speak his mind. He had supported the Congress and the BJP. If he did not like something, he pointed it out. He has also criticised a few decisions of PM Modi. In his passing, people are remembering this aspect. Because this government under CM Himanta Biswa Sarma practises the politics of fear and intimidation. Anybody who speaks out is immediately threatened. The people are now speaking out against the poor leadership; many are questioning the way his family has been amassing wealth. I think that people will vote for a Congress-led government.

The ruling party has accused you and your wife of harbouring Pakistani links. How do you respond?

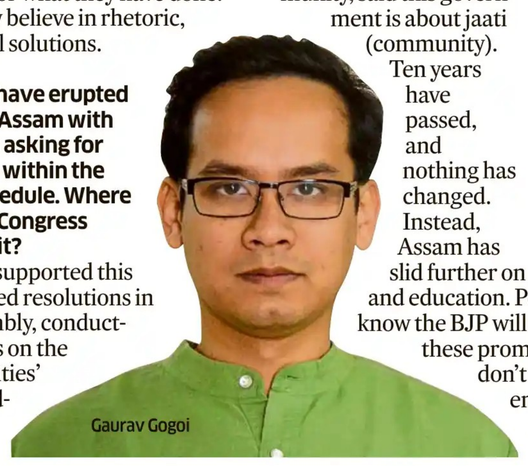
I do not care much about personal attacks; they are baseless and ridiculous. What I'm more concerned with is that the people are scared to speak out against the government. I do not want Assam to live in a state of fear and insecurity. Tomorrow if we are in power and make a mistake, I want people to ask questions. We have the humility to accept mistakes.

The politics of the outsider in Assam has always taken centre stage and the BJP says that you support illegal immigrants. How do you respond?

What did the BJP do in this decade? You have a double engine government; the Central government protects the borders, and you have friendly relations with neighboring countries. All neighbouring states are ruled by either BJP or NDA. If the problem still exists, it does on your watch. They have to give an account for what they have done. They only believe in rhetoric, not in real solutions.

Protests have erupted in Upper Assam with six tribes asking for inclusion within the Sixth Schedule. Where does the Congress stand on it?

We have supported this – we passed resolutions in the assembly, conducted studies on the communities' backwardness, sent reports to the Centre, and held talks with the Registrar General of India. In 2016, PM Modi said that within six months, these groups would get ST status. Former CM Sarbananda Sonowal, who is from the ST community, said this government is about jaati (community). Ten years have passed, and nothing has changed. Instead, Assam has slid further on health and education. People know the BJP will not fulfill these promises. They don't believe in empowering tribal communities, only in dominating them from Delhi or Dispur.



Gaurav Gogoi

Scan to watch full interview

The government is saying that it will now make public a 40-year-old report, which was submitted after the Nellie Massacre. What ramifications will it have for Congress?

The way this government is acting, especially at a time when the state is still mourning Zubeen. He died in mysterious circumstances and a month later, the truth has not come out. The government has put charges of murder and conspiracy against his close aides. The people want the truth, but this government does not want that; they don't want Zubeen to be remembered. They're trying to raise various issues to divert attention.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Easing coastal rules will erode lives

NITI Aayog's proposals on coastal zone management in the country, including the reduction of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) limit from 500 metres to 200 metres, are ill-conceived. The proposed reduction in the CRZ buffer will seriously hamper the integrity of the coastline, which is already under stress from erosion and frequent extreme weather events. India's coast is thickly populated, and at least 113 coastal cities face the risk of submergence. A depleted buffer zone will make them more vulnerable. Recommending changes to align Indian regulations with global norms, the NITI Aayog panel has also called for lowering mandatory green cover requirements for industrial zones, from 33% to 10%, as in Taiwan, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Polluting industries would still need to maintain up to 25% green cover based on a graded index.

India has a coastline of over 11,000 km. Its nature varies from state to state and in some cases, even from district to district. It may not be prudent to have one uniform regulation for the entire coast, especially if it is restrictive. Considering the diversities that mark the coastline, provisions for industry or other activities will need careful examination. India does not have to emulate policies that are followed by smaller countries such as Vietnam, which are short of land. NITI Aayog argues that the existing 500-metre limit is "overly restrictive" and detrimental to tourism, fishing enterprises, and infrastructure development. The industries and services being sought to be promoted in the coastal areas will be the first casualty when erosion and extreme weather events make life itself unviable on these stretches.

The NITI Aayog proposal to shrink the regulated buffer threatens coasts already vulnerable to erosion

Environmentalists and climate activists have strongly opposed the proposals. They have pointed out that satellite data has recorded a global sea-level rise of 91 mm since 1993. The levels are to rise further with the melting of ice and the warming of oceans, accelerating the threat. The actual incidence may be higher due to local factors. Data presented to parliament showed that nearly 24% of the coastline in Karnataka is eroding, while 33.6% of the country's coastline is vulnerable to erosion. The NITI Aayog proposal comes at a time when there is a case for further tightening the coastal zone regulations. Environmental groups have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a rejection of the proposals. That a high-profile policy think-tank has made such an unsound proposal is unfortunate. The country cannot afford to adopt this retrograde model of regulation on its coastline against the interests of its dependent livelihoods.

A recipe for ecological stress

The Karnataka government's decision to declare the Beladakuppe Mahadeshwara Swamy Temple inside Bandipur Tiger Reserve a tourist destination is deeply misguided. In its eagerness to fuse faith with footfall, the state risks destabilising one of India's most fragile ecological zones. A temple symbolising harmony between nature and divinity is now being recast in a way that could imperil both. For centuries, the temple has stood in the heart of this dense forest, believed to be chosen by Mahadeshwara himself for its solitude. The tiger, his mythical vehicle, is not a metaphor to be marketed but a living creature whose survival depends on human restraint.

The timing of this announcement could not be more ironic. Days before it was made, a villager near the temple was mauled by a tiger, a reminder that wild landscapes demand caution, not crowding. Tigers and tourist convoys do not coexist. Promoting the temple as a tourist destination will not only heighten human-wildlife conflict but also undo years of painstaking conservation work. Bandipur's core zone is not vacant land awaiting development; it is one of the most critical tiger habitats in the country. Its lakes, streams, and vegetation sustain a delicate balance of life. To open this sanctuary to constant vehicular noise, litter, and plastic waste is to deepen the stress animals already face. Importantly, any tourism or construction within a tiger reserve must occur only in the designated tourism zone, as mandated by the Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Beladakuppe lies outside this zone, and the Bandipur TCP makes no provision for tourism here. Declaring the temple a tourist spot is therefore not only ecologically disastrous but also illegal. The NTCA has repeatedly cautioned against human intrusion into the core area. Ignoring these directives is a wilful violation of both ecological science and law.

Temple tourism inside the BTR violates laws and will disrupt the region's ecological balance

The annual temple fair already causes enough damage. Thousands pour in with vehicles and bullock carts, trampling vegetation, littering plastic, and disturbing wildlife. Institutionalising such activity under the guise of tourism would be an environmental catastrophe. Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has been proactive with the conservation of Karnataka's forests, and his efforts to protect tiger corridors and reclaim encroached lands have earned appreciation from environmentalists. That resolve must now prevail. Bandipur must not be sacrificed at the altar of populism. The true worship of Mahadeshwara lies in preserving the wilderness he embodies, not exploiting it for tourism.

POWER IN RESERVE

India should push for the gold standard

The country's dormant gold reserves present it with an opportunity to break away from a fragile, US-led financial order

ROGER MARSHALL AND KAL KRISHNAN

The ongoing tariff war waged on the world by Donald Trump can be traced to one simple fact, viz., the US is heavily in debt. A ballooning national debt – now over $36 trillion, growing at 15-20% of GDP. On top of this, student loan debt exceeds $1.7 trillion, and other consumer debts add another $300 billion. Japan and China together hold over $2 trillion of US debt, making America's position increasingly precarious. To maintain its hegemonic status, the US has stationed troops in over 100 countries and fueled its six major defence contractors with roughly $350 billion annually. Washington has also manipulated the international monetary system over many decades to ensure that the dollar is the preferred currency for global trade.

The US dollar, however, is a fiat currency, backed by neither gold nor any other tangible asset ever since President Nixon ended dollar convertibility to gold in 1971. Like its citizenry, America has been living on borrowed money; it has become a credit risk, its entire economic structure resting on faith rather than real value.

The centrepiece of the international monetary system was based on the price of gold. Gold has been used as money for several reasons. It is fungible, easily transportable, malleable, and possesses unique physical and chemical properties that make it difficult to counterfeit. A gold standard is an exchange rate system in which each country's currency is valued as worth a fixed amount of gold. After World War II, the leading Western powers adopted a new system that made the US dollar the world's reserve currency. All currencies now fluctuate in relation to the dollar.

Some economists and others, including President Donald Trump and his former Federal Reserve Board of Governors nominee, Judy Shelton, favour a return to the gold standard because it would impose new rules and "discipline" on a central bank they view as too powerful and whose actions they consider flawed.

The current trade imbalance between the US and China may be traced to the pivotal moment when, in 1971, Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger opened trade with China, drawing Western corporations eastward with promises of cheap labour, no strikes, and political "stability." By outsourcing production, they slashed labour costs, boosted margins, and delivered higher returns to shareholders. At the same time, US consumers gained access to cheaper goods. Over a span of forty years, China has become the world's factory. In the US, costs have soared. US manufacturing wages today average $50-$80 per hour, while professional services command $150-$300. By contrast, in countries like India, Vietnam, or China, comparable costs are one-fifth, or less.

The IMF and the World Bank, long dominated by US and European interests, have played dual roles: rescuing economies in crisis while also binding poorer nations into cycles of debt and dependency. Their influence is now being challenged as new financial institutions like the BRICS Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank offer alternatives.

Untold gold is unmatched leverage

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, one ounce of gold cost $20.67. Today, a troy ounce of gold has already gone over the $4,000 mark. If a country's wealth is measured in terms of how much gold the country has, India would be the richest. While America still holds the largest official reserves – about 8,133 tons, and Germany is next with 3,350 tons, India, officially, has only 800 tons. Yet here is an extraordinary fact: Indian households and temples together are estimated to hold over 25,000 tons of gold – far more than any government. At $4,000 per ounce, this translates to 2,000 x 16 x 25,000 x 4,000 = $3.2 trillion. This is not merely wealth; it is potential leverage in a shifting global order.

To tap into this untold wealth, the Indian government should consider requiring its citizens and the temples to turn in 30% of their gold holdings in exchange for gold bonds, which would pay an attractive rate of interest, such as 10%. The almost one trillion dollars that is raised can be used for a variety of infrastructure projects across India to provide its citizenry with better roads, universal healthcare, clean water, clean air and sewage facilities, and manufacturing hubs so that the slogan 'Make in India for India and the world' can become a reality. During the Great Depression, when Americans were hoarding gold, they were ordered by President Roosevelt to convert their gold into dollars so that the US economy could recover.

While Trump occasionally invokes the gold standard, his real goal is to promote dollar-backed cryptocurrency, the so-called stablecoin. The gold standard is invoked as rhetoric, while the real push is towards a privatised digital currency system. The cryptocurrency industry was the biggest corporate donor during Trump's 2024 general election campaign.

This shift is revealing. Unlike fiat money, cryptocurrencies are decentralised and outside government control. Cryptocurrency relies on reliable network connectivity, but such connectivity is subject to manipulation by Silicon Valley, one of Trump's strongest backers.

For India, the choice is stark: meekly follow a financial and monetary system dominated by US and European interests, or assert itself as a shaper of a new, fairer world order. Gold reserves – both public and private – offer India tremendous leverage. With confidence and political will, India can lead in reshaping global finance, free from the lingering colonial mindset.

The US, saddled with debt and addicted to fiat currency and speculative finance instruments, is vulnerable. Its flirtation with both the gold standard and cryptocurrency reflects uncertainty, not strength. By contrast, India's challenge is to mobilise its dormant wealth to secure real independence and prosperity.

Is India up to the challenge? Only time will tell.

(Roger is a retired professor and writer on societal and geo-political implications of technology; Kal is an entrepreneur and consulting engineer based in the San Francisco area)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Not a 'rushian' any more

The slow relishing of daily moments brings the joy of savoured pleasures

DEEPA MOHAN

One of the words that seems so very negative – that word, rhyming with 'grow', but which usually does not bode well for the noun or verb it describes. Slow. How many times have we heard it being said with a sad, sympathetic cluck of the tongue? "Oh, she's a little slow." "My father's a little slow on his feet these days." "I thought the monsoon would arrive on time, but it's a little slow."

Why am I thinking about this word now? As I age, it has, rather suddenly, started being applied to me. I walked back home with my granddaughter from school, and the next day she told her mother and me that she would prefer to walk by herself. Later, not knowing that I was listening, she said, "She's so slow!" I had not thought about my rate of progress, and I knew (of course) that I was stopping only to admire and click the various flowers in people's gardens. Otherwise (of course) I would have kept up with her! Oh well, honesty soon prevailed, and I accepted my "slow" prefix. It applies to several other activities of mine, too.

On my nature walks, we see a bird in the air or on a tree. By the time I lift my camera and focus, the big bird is gone. But not before my—obviously, younger—fellow walkers have taken several shots compared to my single one of the branch, or the sky, where the bird had been!

My daughter, too, unconsciously branded her elderly uncle. They climbed a mountain together recently, and I heard her telling several people that her uncle (a seasoned mountaineer, with Everest Base Camp and Mont Blanc under his belt!) was "a little slow during the ascent." 'Ayyayyo', I thought, 'slow happens to all of us.'

I am now trying to find positive shades to this word. And I have, indeed, found a few. "Slow to anger." "Slow to decay". "Slowly simmer."

Ancient storytellers like Aesop also help me out. I can add a few more words and get a whole nice sentence: "...and steady wins the race." (Don't ask me which race I have won by being slow and/or steady.) Aha! Such phrases put fresh heart into my slow soul, and, slowly, a smile spreads across my face. I look up while I walk, read the road sign that says, "Go Slow," and I nod my head in agreement. I am not a 'Rushian'! Slow is now my preferred speed, in the evening of my life, and the slow relishing of daily moments brings me the joy of savoured pleasures. Only slow people can stop to smell the roses!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't rue losing data centre to Andhra Pradesh

I refer to 'Incentive wars: Why walking away can be wiser' (Oct 30). Renewable energy sources alone cannot meet the power needs of data centres. Servers in these facilities require a constant, stable flow of electricity — even a few seconds of interruption can cost companies thousands of dollars. This is why big tech companies are turning to captive nuclear power, despite its higher cost. The Karnataka government should consider locating data centres along the West Coast — for example, in Mangaluru, which is a seaport and close to the Kaiga nuclear power plant. In the US, many major tech firms have signed non-disclosure agreements concealing how much water and electricity their data centres consume. The US Congress is now proposing to prohibit such agreements. Data centres are both power- and water-guzzlers — and with cryptocurrency operations added to the mix, the demand grows even higher. For all the incentives showered on them, data centres generate relatively few jobs compared to the cost of construction and operation, or the land they occupy. They are usually squat, rectangular structures with little aesthetic appeal, and local communities gain few economic benefits from hosting them. There is, therefore, no reason for the Karnataka government to feel disheartened at losing out on the proposed Google data centre to Andhra Pradesh.
H N Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

Bridge the care gap

Apropos 'States cannot be casual with critical care' (Oct 30), the issue reflects a deeper problem in our public health priorities. Critical care services remain uneven across states, exposing patients to uncertainty during emergencies. Beyond framing guidelines, there is a pressing need for consistent monitoring, staff training, and better-equipped district hospitals. Many rural areas still lack trauma centres or ventilator support, highlighting the persistent urban–rural divide in healthcare. The Court's intervention should inspire a more responsible, people-centric approach, where saving lives takes precedence over bureaucratic delay and complacency.
Megha Galagali, Dharwad

Breathing not a luxury

It is disturbing to wake up to another "very poor" air quality day in Delhi, with the AQI hitting 305 and 27 of 38 monitoring stations stuck in the danger zone. While the government prepares for its first cloud-seeding trial as a quick fix, we must ask: why are we still scrambling for temporary solutions when cleaner air should be a constant? Real change comes when traffic, construction dust, and seasonal stubble burning are managed proactively, not when the skies are grey and alarms ring.
K R Gagan, Tumakuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...People have stopped taking Rahul Gandhi seriously because his remarks have become shallow and disrespectful. He does not sound like an LoP. He is an LoB, Leader Opposing Bharat.
Anurag Thakur, BJP MP

I love my country too much to be a nationalist.
Albert Camus

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

In defence of Supreme Court's vacations

The breaks are essential for judges to reflect and deliberate, to ensure quality and integrity in their judgements

KUMAR KARTIKEYA

India's Supreme Court has faced relentless criticism over the "too many" vacations its judges take. It is a grievance that resurfaces every summer, every winter, and every recess, and is voiced by citizens and others who see 'vacation' as leisure time in a country where courts are burdened by millions of pending cases. The Supreme Court and the High Courts work under conditions that are vastly different from those of other jurisdictions. The Supreme Court of India sits far more days in a year than most of its global counterparts. The United States Supreme Court will sit only for 65 days in 2025. The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, operating on a term system, will sit for 188 days. The Apex Court of Australia will sit for 97 days. In contrast, the Supreme Court of India sits for 190 working days in 2025, despite its vacations.

To understand why these breaks exist, one has to look at what happens outside the courtroom. The work of a judge is not limited to the hours that are spent hearing lawyers. Between those hearings lie hours of reading, writing, revising, and reflecting. A judgement is not produced in a vacuum; it is the outcome of days of deliberation, research, and often disagreement. 'Vacation', therefore, is not rest in the leisurely sense of the word; it is time reclaimed for writing, for completing reserved judgements, and for catching up on the intellectual labour that justice demands.

The burden on the Supreme Court is unlike that of any other top court. It is both a constitutional court and an appellate court, simultaneously handling questions of national importance and appeals from across the country. Tens of thousands of petitions are filed every year; judges navigate a caseload that would overwhelm any comparable institution in the world.

A judge who is exhausted by relentless hearings risks losing the detachment and patience that fair adjudication requires. The Constitution of India does not ask judges to be machines; it asks them to be wise. Wisdom takes time: time to read, to think, to listen, to write. There is also a human truth here. The same people who demand that judges sit through the year also demand that their judgements be thorough, well-reasoned, and free of error. But the latter depends on the former. To expect precision without pause is to mistake justice for automation.

Discipline for better judgement

The backlog of cases in the country runs into crores; the Court simply working 365 days will not help this cause. But the real cause of pendency lies deeper, in procedural delays and an over-centralised litigation system where the government remains the largest litigant. The Supreme Court's calendar cannot repair what decades of administrative inertia have built. Vacations are the easiest scapegoat because they are visible; the structural inefficiencies that truly slow down justice are not.

It is also worth remembering that the Supreme Court has evolved. Over the years, it has made adjustments in the form of partial working days during the summer, vacation benches earmarked for urgent matters, electronic filings, and more. Perhaps, what we need most is a shift in the way we think about judicial work. We speak of open court hours as though that is the only time judges serve. But just as teaching is not confined to the classroom, judging is not confined to the bench. Every line in a judgement, every precedent checked, every argument weighed, and hours of research and proofreading which go in – all of this happens beyond the public eye. In that sense, the so-called 'vacation' is merely the invisible half of the same labour.

The judges of the Supreme Court carry a heavier cognitive and moral burden than perhaps any other public servants. They interpret the Constitution, settle conflicts between the Union and the states, define the contours of liberty, and occasionally, as history shows, rescue democracy itself. If they take a few weeks a year to recharge, deliberate, and write, it is not a privilege; it is prudence.

We should remind ourselves that the Supreme Court's vacations are not a dereliction of duty but an integral part of judicial discipline. The quality of its judgements, the depth of its reasoning, and the continuity of its integrity depend on that balance between hearing and reflection. In defending the Supreme Court, it is not defending privilege; it is defending perspective.

(The writer has been a law researcher at the High Court of Delhi, and currently practises at the Supreme Court of India)

'Rs 75 per sq ft bribe is the Congress model for Bengaluru'

Taking Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar head-on over the tunnel road project, Bangalore South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya is confident that his party will win the city's municipal elections as well as the 2028 state polls. Excerpts:

Tejasvi Surya, *BJP MP, in conversation with* **Bharath Joshi**

THE DEEP TAKE

● How is the BJP positioned for the GBA elections?
The BJP is ready to face the elections when they happen. We're very confident that the city will, once again, repose faith in the BJP across all municipal corporations, having grown greatly disenchanted with the way the Congress government has governed the city. I also want to state that we've challenged in court the constitutionality of the GBA Act, which violates the 74th Amendment. It centralises power with the state in the garb of decentralisation.

● What makes you say that the BJP will do well in the GBA polls?
BJP governments, both in the Centre and state, have consistently delivered development for Bengaluru. In fact, we brought the BBMP when B S Yediyurappa was the CM. Bengaluru, under BJP, also benefited from many schemes, including giving police stations access to a CCTV network, which happened for the first time. The Cauvery Phase 4 and 5 schemes greatly progressed under BJP governments. The city has benefitted from the expansion of the metro network, the suburban rail project, urban housing, Startup India, Jan Aushadhi and, more recently, the tax relief to the middle class. That's why BJP is repeatedly trusted by people of the city.

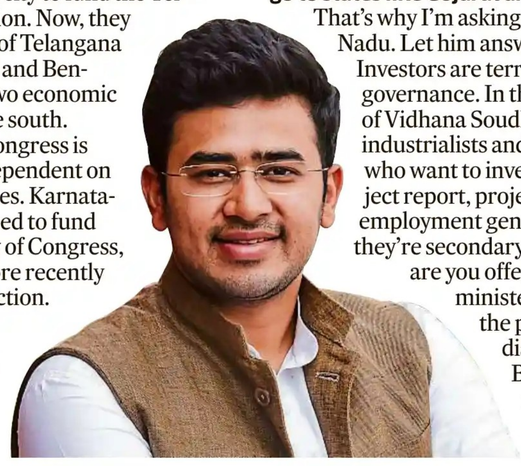
● How will you counter the Congress' narrative, especially that of D K Shivakumar, that the previous BJP government did nothing for the city?
I've mentioned how BJP has delivered development. What Congress intends for Bengaluru is tunnel vision, literally. Other than such projects aimed at looting the exchequer, there's no vision Congress offers. We've presented our vision: a 300-km metro with a 3-minute frequency, a 314-km suburban rail and more buses. We also brought the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), to which this government hasn't appointed a chairperson. If you compare the pace of metro construction under our government and theirs, you'll know how fast we were. Shivakumar has said many times there's a garbage mafia. It reeks of helplessness. The government should be the one dictating the terms, not the mafia.

● Will the BJP dismantle this so-called garbage mafia?
Absolutely! In my constituency, at Bommanahalli, there's the KCDC compost plant. People were always complaining about it. I wanted to find a permanent solution. Under the Centre's Swachh Bharat and Amrut Bharat schemes, we've now got GAIL to set up a compressed biogas plant with a 500 metric-tonne capacity. It'll incinerate wet garbage and produce piped gas that will be distributed to households. This is a 100% central project and an example of how you can bring a sustainable change.

● With no other BJP leader taking on the government over Bengaluru governance, are you now the face of your party in the city?
As an MP of the city, it's only my responsibility and duty to raise issues and try to get this insensitive government to address them. Our metro fare is the highest in the country. A city that suffers from traffic jams must be incentivising public transport, not punitively punishing citizens for using it. We've been fighting for public transport, which is a proven solution. We've been fighting against corruption in the khata process. I'm only doing my duty, nothing beyond that.

● There's a leadership tussle brewing in Congress. One view is that the BJP would prefer Siddaramaiah as CM, for he'll provide issues that can polarise voters.
This assumption that BJP needs communal issues to bolster its political narrative is flawed. The BJP has opposed ideas that are anti-people. It's in the nature of Congress to do corruption and be anti-people. So, it doesn't matter who'll lead the state. There's nothing positive that'll come out of this government.

So, how does BJP view the road to 2028?
People are just waiting for an opportunity to throw this government out. This government is treating Karnataka like a golden goose to fund Congress pan-India. The moment they got control of Bengaluru, they literally squeezed the city to fund the Telangana election. Now, they have control of Telangana (Hyderabad) and Bengaluru, the two economic centres of the south. The entire Congress is financially dependent on these two cities. Karnataka is being used to fund every activity of Congress, including more recently the Bihar election. There's an unwritten fee of Rs 75 per sq ft for building plan approvals. Ask any builder. This is the city's biggest open secret, a new model introduced by the Congress government. Also, the aspirational bar has come down so low that DCM says the government is filling up 5,000 potholes. Is this an achievement? Looking at this, Google took its $15 billion project to Andhra Pradesh. Why is it that many manufacturing facilities go to Hosur?



● IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge says the PMO arm-twists investors to go to states like Gujarat and Assam.
That's why I'm asking about Tamil Nadu. Let him answer this. Investors are terrified of your governance. In the corridors of Vidhana Soudha, talk to industrialists and people who want to invest. The project report, project proposal, employment generation... they're secondary. What are you offering to the minister? That's the primary discussion. Based on that, things move ahead.

By withholding soybean purchases and rare-earth exports, China extracted relief from US tariffs and delayed export controls, without conceding much in return

LILY KUO AND DAVID PIERSON

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

The art of letting Trump win, while walking away stronger

By withholding soybean purchases and rare-earth exports, China extracted relief from US tariffs and delayed export controls, without conceding much in return. When Xi Jinping walked out of his meeting with President Trump on Thursday, he projected the confidence of a powerful leader who could make Washington blink. The outcome of the talks suggested that he succeeded.

By flexing China's near monopoly on rare earths and its purchasing power over US soybeans, Xi won key concessions from Washington — a reduction in tariffs, a suspension of port fees on Chinese ships and the delay of US export controls that would have barred more Chinese firms from accessing American technology. Both sides also agreed to extend a truce struck earlier this year to limit tariffs.

"What's clear is they have become increasingly bold in exerting leverage and they are happy to pocket any and all US concessions," said Julian Gewirtz, who was a senior China policy official at the White House and the State Department in President Joseph R Biden Jr's administration.

Sounding almost like he was delivering a lecture, Xi said to Trump that the "recent twists and turns" of the trade war should be instructive to them both, according to a Chinese government summary of Xi's remarks at the meeting in Busan, South Korea.

"Both sides should consider the bigger picture and focus on the long-term benefits of cooperation, rather than falling into a vicious cycle of mutual retaliation," Xi said.

By twists and turns Xi was likely referring to the last several months, or nearly a year, of tit-for-tat retaliatory measures in the form of tariffs, sanctions and export controls. Earlier this month, China escalated dramatically, strengthening its hand by announcing sweeping new limits on the sales of on rare earths, critical minerals that are needed for almost all modern technology. Cutting off their supply could cripple US industries.

Xi's message seemed to be: Beijing had proven its capacity to hit back and Washington would do well to remember it.

"After Trump launched his trade and tariff war, China was the only country that matched the United States blow for blow," said Zhu Feng, a professor of international relations at Nanjing University, noting that the biggest win for China could be that the US might think twice before imposing new measures on China. "If Trump had forced China to implement its complete export controls on rare earths, it would have been a lose-lose situation for both sides," he said.

At the same time, Xi also seemed to grasp what Trump needed, a deal that he could sell as a victory at home. The outcome allowed Trump to claim a win for American farmers and companies, even though China had largely restored the *status quo* by agreeing to buy soybeans and to hold off on further restricting the export of rare earths.

Trump pumped a fist in the air as he boarded Air Force One, then said on the plane that Xi had agreed to take more action to stop the flow of chemicals used to make fentanyl from reaching the US. He also said that China promised to purchase more US soybeans. "Our Farmers will be very happy!" he posted on Truth Social afterward. "I would like to thank President Xi for this!"

After the two leaders met, China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement that it would suspend for one year the restrictions on rare earths that were announced in October.

Separately, Trump said he would cut in half the 20% tariffs he had imposed on Chinese goods to pressure China to do more to stop fentanyl trafficking. The reduction announced on Thursday brings overall tariffs on Chinese goods to around 47% from 57%, he said. The Chinese commerce ministry also said the two sides had agreed to a one-year extension of a truce to limit additional tariffs that was originally set to expire on November 10. Some experts said China inevitably had the upper hand in the trade fight because the Trump administration never had a clear objective.

"I think its an approach that can safely be described as tactics without a strategy," said Jonathan Czin, a fellow at the Brookings Institution who previously analysed Chinese politics at the CIA.

"Ostensibly, the goal was to address some of the meaty trade issues that had long bedevilled the relationship. Instead, the PRC side has successfully orchestrated a game of 'whack-a-mole' for the Trump Administration," Czin said, using the abbreviation for the People's Republic of China.

Still, in a potential concession by Beijing, China's official summary of the meeting did not mention Taiwan, the island democracy that Beijing claims. It is a topic that Chinese leaders usually bring up when meeting their US counterparts to pressure Washington to dial back US support for the island.

The agreements struck on Thursday could mean at least a temporary calm in the fractious US-China relationship. Trump said the two leaders also discussed "working together" to end the war in Ukraine. He said he would travel to China in April and Xi would visit the United States after that.

Xi also played to Trump's preference for personal rapport by appealing to Trump's domestic agenda, saying that he believed China's development "goes hand in hand" with the president's "vision to 'make America great again.'" Mr. Trump, for his part, flattered Mr. Xi, calling him "a great leader of a great country" and a "great friend."

"It's a personalised style of diplomacy that plays well to both leaders' instincts," said Lizzi C Lee, a fellow focusing on the Chinese economy at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "For now, these gestures of good will seem to set the tone for a period of managed stability."

Still, any progress made on Thursday could easily be erased by moves on either side that are interpreted as violating the agreement. A deal struck last month was almost undone when the US expanded the range of companies banned from accessing US technology, which would have affected many Chinese companies. China then announced its export controls on rare earths. That prompted Trump to threaten to call off Thursday's meeting and to impose yet more tariffs on Chinese goods. In the absence of a finalised agreement, it is unclear how long the current détente will last.

The New York Times

Labelling lies in AI age

SUHANA AND HARSHITA GUPTA

In a telling reminder that the boom in technology has set us racing against deception itself, the government's recent proposal to amend the Information Technology Rules to mandate labelling of AI-generated content --and a subsequent public interest litigation seeking judicial regulation of deepfakes, both arriving within fifty hours of each other – underscore a digital age that demands more than rhetoric.

The proposed amendment to Parts I and II of the IT Rules (Rules 2, 3, and 4) requires all synthetically generated audio-visual, textual, or image-based content that "reasonably appears to be authentic or true" to carry a prominent label or embedded metadata declaring its artificial origins. The burden of truth is thus shifted onto host platforms and the content creators, requiring user declarations, technical verification, and labelling that covers at least 10% of visual content or the first 10% of an audio clip.

The need for such a measure is pressing. India faces a deluge of AI-driven scams --voice-cloning, image manipulation, fake travel offers, and fabricated endorsements have become alarmingly common. A recent study found that 69% of Indian adults struggle to distinguish an AI-generated voice from a human one, while 47% have directly experienced or know someone who has been targeted by an AI-voice scam. Meanwhile, the spectre of deepfakes being used to manufacture political or financial fraud looms large. In this light, the amendment aims not only to protect the rights of individuals whose images and voices may be misused but also to safeguard the integrity of public discourse, electoral trust, and cognitive autonomy in our hyper-connected society.

While the proposed amendment is necessary, several issues warrant closer scrutiny. First, the public consultation window closes on November 6—barely two weeks after notification—leaving stakeholders little time for meaningful participation. Experts have flagged this timeline as inadequate, given the technical, legal, and societal complexities of regulating AI-generated content.

Secondly, the practical burden of real-time detection poses formidable challenges. Unlike the relatively monolingual markets of the US or UK, India's digital ecosystem spans 22 official languages and hundreds of dialects. Accurately identifying content across regional languages such as Hindi, Tamil, or Bengali requires detection models far more sophisticated than those currently available. Beyond language, other challenges include the rapid evolution of deepfake technology and the high computational cost of real-time monitoring. The amendment provides no clarity on which authority will oversee detection, and law enforcement agencies often lack the necessary technical expertise and resources for scalable, real-time forensic work.

Moreover, the amendment's definition of "synthetically generated information" is vague. The provision captures any content "modified or altered" to "reasonably appear authentic", risking the inadvertent criminalisation of routine artistic filters, minor digital enhancements, and creative expression. The arbitrary 10% label size requirement also lacks empirical justification, threatening to stealthily intrude into and potentially cause a chilling effect on free speech, raising fundamental constitutional questions.

To fully implement a robust regulatory framework in a digital economy, integrating best international practices becomes imperative. To address the issue of language formats in India requiring more sophisticated systems, examples of countries like South Korea are compelling. South Korea's forthcoming AI Framework Act adopts a dual-layer approach, combining immediate visual alerts with an embedded, language-agnostic metadata identifier that creates a sophisticated and scalable solution capable of maintaining content provenance and combating deepfakes across India's official languages, moving beyond simple content-takedown models. Similarly, the use of ambiguous terminology may be addressed through a risk-based taxonomy similar to the EU's AI Act that confines the heaviest obligations to genuinely high-risk systems and imposes calibrated transparency requirements on lower-risk uses.

Finally, the challenge posed by the Indian draft rule's quantifiable, yet technologically blunt, 10% visual or audio coverage threshold for labelling is best refined by mandating the embedding of a permanent, machine-readable digital signature (metadata) into all AI-generated media to ensure traceability irrespective of the content's visible formatting, like it is done in China.

(The writers are students of National Law University, Jodhpur)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

Urs heads free Legal Aid and Advice Council

Bangalore, October 30
A high-level authority, called the State Council of Legal Aid and Advice, has been set up in Karnataka under the presidentship of Chief Minister Devaraj Urs to render free legal service to socially and economically weaker sections of society. Eminent judges and members of the Bar are the Patrons of the council, which will start functioning from January 1, 1976. The present arrangement provides free legal aid to Harijans and others with social and economic disadvantages and people with disabilities.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

CBI has no 'hard evidence' on match-fixing

New Delhi, Oct 30
Wrapping up its six-month investigations into cricket match fixing in 162 pages containing "circumstantial evidence" of monetary dealing between bookies and players, CBI today concluded that there was no "hard evidence" against any of the players whose names figured in the controversy. The report was submitted to Union Sports Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa. Later, CBI officials indicated that the report named at least five Indian cricketers having "involvement" in cricket betting.

OASIS | BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ

The forgotten foundation of peace

We all dream of a better world where peace, happiness and harmony reign, don't we? No one would like degradation of the environment, loss of human lives due to wars and murders, dehumanisation through poverty and troublesome social, economic and political conditions. But the question is, what are those values and how can such a socio-political-economic system be established, which has those values and which will enhance human experience and enable men and women to have such life-style as can make such a society viable? Looking around, it can be said that much of the conflict in society today is due to a lack or absence of tolerance. It is tolerance of difference in views, diversity of religious beliefs and cultures, plurality of races and nations, etc., that brings about unity and co-operation and that, in turn, leads to making concerted efforts for the amelioration of the miserable condition of the world.

Tolerance is easy where one is confronted with civilised and wise people, but one has to have a higher degree of tolerance if one is confronted with persons who are compulsive, vile and wicked and for this, one is required to develop in the self, the supportive values of good-will, patience, introvertness, calmness and love that is uppermost among these all. Our present sorry state is the result of neglect of those values. It is not that science and technology or management skills have caused our present sufferings.

On the other hand, it is the fall in the standards of morality that has prevented even science and technology and management or administrative ability from giving us their full fruits.

Moreover, it is not that people do not know that moral values are necessary to build a happy and peaceful society. People wish to have moral qualities in their life but they do not have that spiritual knowledge that should enable them to successfully follow these values in their life nor do they know that kind of Meditation which should make the values stay in them and should give them a deep experience of peace and happiness. Thus, the need of the hour is that we create a mass awareness among people for values like tolerance,humility,mutual respect in order to realise our dream of a world where there is peace,happiness and harmony.

Police oppose bail to Umar Khalid, others with 'regime change' allegation

Tell top court that protesters chose strategic time during Trump's visit

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DELHI POLICE

"It is submitted that it does not lie with the petitioners who for malafide and mischievous reasons have delayed the commencement of trial to come and play victim card and seek bail on the ground of prolonged incarceration.

The Delhi Police on Thursday vehemently opposed before the Supreme Court the bail plea by former JNU students Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and others, arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA in the 2020 Delhi riots case.

The cops said they indulged in acts intended to ensure "regime change" and chose the strategic time during US President Donald Trump's visit.

The police claimed the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests were to be used as a camouflage to cause large-scale killings across the country.

A day before the matter was to come up for hearing, the police contended that the conspiracy to incite violence and riots demonstrated that the accused didn't intend to vent personal grievance or political dissent but to incite violence, which has direct implications on the nation's economic and social fabric.

"The messaging, tone, and references therein were not incidental but deliberate, reflecting an overarching aim to destabilise the country by setting up a global narrative of ethnic cleansing or pogrom of the Muslim community under the proposed CAA," the affidavit claimed.

The police contended that the riots were not spontaneous but part of a deep-rooted, premeditated, and pre-planned conspiracy. They claimed that the conspiracy aimed to strike at the very heart of the country's sovereignty and integrity by destroying communal harmony and instigating crowds not only to abrogate public order but also towards armed rebellion.

It pointed out that the international theory developed in the past few years has termed these kinds of organised/sponsored protests as "regime change operation(s)".

The police, however, maintained that their assertion did not, in any manner, supplement or substitute the requirement of law as contained in Section 43D (5) of the UAPA for deciding the bail applications or appeals arising therefrom.

They added that the protests were calibrated to coincide with Trump's February 2020 visit to ensure global visibility.

Andhra suffers Rs 5,265-cr loss due to cyclone Montha: Naidu

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu, said preliminary estimates suggested that the state had suffered a loss of Rs 5,265 crore due to severe cyclonic storm Montha.

He said paddy crops in several districts are still under water and a report will be sent to the Central government on the losses. On the other hand, 90% of reservoirs in the state are full and groundwater levels increased in several mandals.

He said the state government successfully faced the challenge with technology-driven monitoring in real time.Chief Minister praised the officials and said that with team spirit, the state government was able to minimise the losses and instill confidence among people. He said the officials at RTGS centre, using data lake, guided the officials at the field level and ensured speedy restoration of power supply and there was no disruption to mobile services.

The CM added that 602 drones were used to monitor the waterbodies and that 1.1 crore alert messages were sent to people.

The chief minister said the successful handling of the cyclone should be taken as a case study. He said the committed work of officials won the appreciation from the people.

'Binge-drinking, driver error': What fuelled Kurnool tragedy

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A week after the Kurnool bus tragedy in which 20 people died, investigators have revealed that before the V Kaveri Travels bus dragged the motorbike, which triggered a fire, for nearly 200 metres on the highway, at least 10 other vehicles passed the two-wheeler and noticed it, but evaded it.

The ill-fated bus struck the bike, which got wedged underneath and was dragged for a distance, triggering sparks that ignited flames and quickly engulfed the bus.

Police teams examining CCTV footage from nearby areas traced the vehicles that passed the bike, and then spoke to their drivers.

Some said they saw two individuals skidding on the rain-slicked highway and assumed it was a minor mishap. Others avoided stopping, fearing a rear-end collision amid poor visibility.

An expert told *DH* that the tragedy could have been prevented if the driver, travelling at 100 kmph, had spotted the bike 120 metres ahead — the "reaction distance" — and applied the brakes in time.

"Once brakes are applied, the bus moves another 80 meters before it halts in that speed, known as the 'braking distance.' Altogether, a heavy vehicle covers nearly 120 metres from perceiving a hazard to coming to a stop. In this case, reports indicate the bus dragged the bike for nearly 200 metres, showing the driver was likely distracted or inattentive," retired deputy transport commissioner Srinivas Puppala told *DH*.

The police also found that biker Siva Sankar and his companion, Yerriswami, had been drinking throughout the night.

The duo had already consumed around 350 ml of liquor, and then went out to buy more before heading toward Rampalli to attend a wedding.

The bike's headlight was not functioning, and they reportedly rode 4-5 km using only blinkers before hitting a divider.

SC allows Karur victim's family to approach CBI over threats by DMK leaders, police

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed family members of a deceased in the Karur stampede during the political rally of actor-politician Vijay's TVK party to approach the CBI to address their grievances related to threats issued by state officials and DMK leaders.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi, which ordered CBI probe into the September 27 stampede, asked advocate Balaji Srinivasan, appearing for S Prabhakaran, writ petitioner, to approach the central agency with his plea for protection.

"It is contended that the petitioner has been threatened and cajoled by the officials of the State. However, in this regard, it is sufficient to say that the petitioner may apply to the CBI. Except to say the same, at present, no further orders are required to be passed on the interlocutory applications," the bench said.

The court, however, agreed to examine the application along with with the writ petition on December 12, 2025.

The applicant contended that the incidents post the filing of this writ petition have left him extremely apprehensive about the threats to his life and his person.

"The threats are issued by persons who are in a position of power and have resources (of State) at their disposal," the plea alleged.

It also claimed threats were received via phone calls on September 09, 2025 as well as the visit of one M Raghunath, the Secretary of the ruling party of the State of Tamil Nadu, i.e. Dravida MunnetraKazhagam, who offered illegal inducement of Rs 20,00,000 and a job for withdrawing the instant writ petition.

"The tone and tenor of these ruling party member(s) was extremely threatening and menacing, in character," it alleged.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

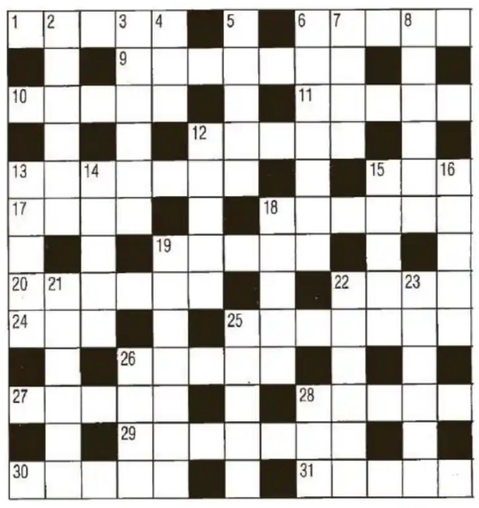
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

WOODSTOCK, YOU'D HAVE MADE A GREAT CARRIER PIGEON! YOU COULD HAVE CARRIED MESSAGES BACK TO HEADQUARTERS...
IF YOU WERE CAPTURED, YOU WOULD REFUSE TO TALK EVEN IF YOU WERE TORTURED!
KLUNK!
WELL, MAYBE YOU COULD TALK A LITTLE...

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12278



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 You never see one wearing a hood (5)
6 Remnants of wrecked bus on the street (5)
9 Say something wrong (7)
10 Do well, making money in the expansion of business (5)
11 A drink before my game (5)
12 Pass the ball? (5)
13 Busy getting united! (7)
15 Shoemaking tool? (3)
17 Stravinsky's operatic prince? (4)
18 Engagement with a playful little man (6)
19 Song of the South (5)
20 Adjoining Charlton, it's not far from Heathrow (6)
22 Where the low soldiery can feel at home? (4)
24 It's back for an early start to the match (3)
25 Faulty loaf? (7)
26 Female horse out of line (5)
27 Cry when shut out for nothing (5)
28 Let it change name (5)
29 Naval hero? A beast, really (3,4)
30 A piece of land in Wales (5)
31 Looks and sounds like Samuel (5)

DOWN
2 Not being busy, I'd fish (6)
3 One thus has to exclude this line (6)
4 Wood used in model making (3)
5 Like every single person (5)
6 You may get it with a smile in the Army and Navy (7)
7 Loyal, I agree (4)
8 A growing degree of bamboozlement! (6)
12 Make a start in radio at home (3,2)
13 Fat lady engaged in rowing (5)
14 Go a bit closer to a bird (5)
15 The rent-a-staff man (5)
16 Always, outside a theatre, you have to go in (5)
18 Paisley's passage (5)
19 Gave an article between two boys (7)
21 It comprises scores in the freight yard (6)
22 Like cattle, or big-headed sheep? (6)
23 Get a better price for? (4,2)
25 Dixie, like him, is apt to become heated (5)
26 Think a fabulous female (4)
28 Like the winning dog? (3)

ACROSS
1 Faith (5)
6 Fruit (5)
9 Forgive (7)
10 Recreation (5)
11 Astute (5)
12 Danger (5)
13 Plug (7)
15 The present (3)
17 Yield (4)
18 Chant (6)
19 Form of quartz (5)
20 Entertains (6)
22 Incline (4)
24 Girl's name (3)
25 Determines (7)
26 Step (5)
27 Open-mouthed (5)
28 Deadly (5)
29 Commanded (7)
30 Hollows (5)
31 Postpone (5)

DOWN
2 Public estimation (6)
3 Abrade (6)
4 Baby (3)
5 Viper (5)
6 Very old (7)
7 Chime (4)
8 European capital (6)
12 Skins (5)
13 Fragment (5)
14 Hatred (5)
15 Pried (5)
16 Unwanted plants (5)
18 Bury (5)
19 Rots (7)
21 Mutilate (6)
22 Angry speech (6)
23 Nullify (6)
25 Eats (5)
26 Notice (4)
28 Provided food for (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12277

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, A-CC-ept 7, Tom Brown 8, St-airs 10, All-e-y 13, Ho.-ar 14, Da-TA 15, Bu-n-s 16, Bob 17, Spas 19, M-I-en 21, Head-board 23, GI-L-l 24, Anna 26, Cat. 27, Arne 29, The-a 32, Li-E-d 33, K-eats 34, Va-LI-se 35, Di's-solve 36, Tennis.
DOWN: 1, S-tra-d 2, Smelt 3, Pray 4, An-so-n 5, Char 6, Parson(-age) 9, Ta-sma-n 11, Law 12, Easel 13, H-usb-and 15, Bad 16, Be-d 18, P-alais 20, I-rate 21, Hit 22, One 23, Garage 25, Bet 28, Reed's 30, H-all-o. 31, Ashes 32, Lion 33, Kiss.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Rabble 7, Palomino 8, Brunch 10, Trier 13, Lout 14, Sari 15, Hits 16, Pep 17, Grab 19, Spat 21, Chameleon 23, Butt 24, Rote 26, Rut 27, Heat 29, Most 32, Well 33, Askew 34, Safari 35, Terrapin 36, Nettle,
DOWN: 1, Spots 2, Flair 3, Emir 4, Robot 5, Bout 6, Locket 9, Russet 11, Rap 12, Eight 13, Liberal 15, Ham 16, Pan 18, Rather 20, Poems 21, Cut 22, Lot 23, Butane 25, Use 28, Elite 30, Okapi 31, Twine 32, Want 33, Acre.

◆SU-DO-KU-6739◆

8	7					2		
4			7		9			3
		2	1					
	8	6		4				
	3						6	
				1		5	3	
					7	3		
2			4		1			7
		8					4	6

medium

3	1	9	2	6	5	4	8	7
5	2	4	1	7	8	3	9	6
7	6	8	9	3	4	1	5	2
4	5	1	6	8	9	2	7	3
6	3	2	5	4	7	8	1	9
8	9	7	3	1	2	6	4	5
9	8	5	4	2	6	7	3	1
1	7	6	8	9	3	5	2	4
2	4	3	7	5	1	9	6	8

SOLUTION TO 6738

To solve the puzzle:
To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
A1	O1	R1	R1	T1	R1	O1	
							RACK 2
A1	K5	T1	C3	A1	E1	O1	Triple Word Score
							RACK 3
I1	G2	D2	D2	I1	L1	E1	Double Word Score
							RACK 4
I1	P3	L1	L1	I1	S1	S1	

PAR SCORE 80-90
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3	O1	U1	J8	I1	K5	RACK 1 =	35
L1	A1	X8	I1	T1	Y4	RACK 2 =	32
S1	P3	E1	E1	C3	H4	RACK 3 =	13
M3	O1	O1	C3	H4	E1	D2	RACK 4 =	95
							JUDD'S TOTAL	175

PAR SCORE 115-125

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

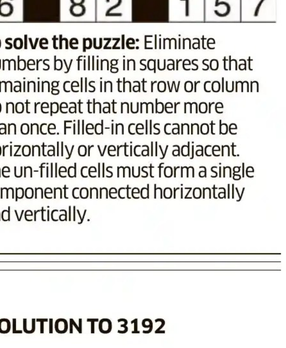
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OVLAC

TEHTE

EWFTSE

IGNNNI


You shouldn't be too intimidated by me. My life is pretty awesome, and meeting me has got to be cool.
Do you talk like this with everyone?
FIGURING OUT WHO HAS A BIG EGO IS EASY WHEN PEOPLE START TALKING. ---
4/22

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE "◯'◯"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHIFT DOUBT UNJUST FIZZLE
Answer: The angler saw one last minnow left in his bait bucket, so he — FISHED IT OUT

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HITORI-3193

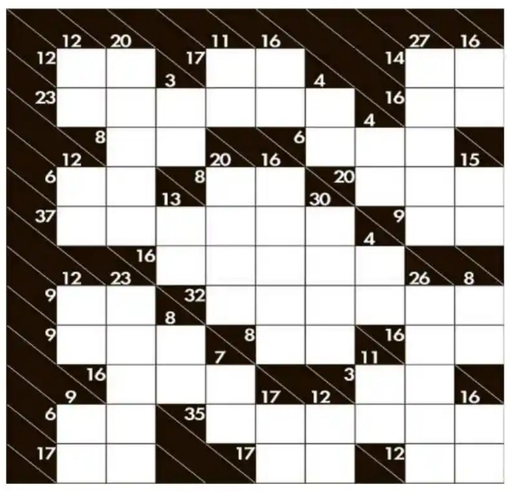
8	7	8	2	6	8	5	4
5	4	6	1	7	2	6	3
8	6	8	7	8	1	2	8
6	3	8	8	7	7	1	5
4	8	5	6	8	7	8	1
8	8	7	2	1	5	4	8
8	5	4	8	2	8	3	6
2	1	8	5	8	4	8	8

SOLUTION TO 3192

8	4	6	1	5	■	3	■
■	7	■	4	■	5	8	6
1	3	5	■	2	4	■	8
5	■	2	3	■	7	6	■
3	8	■	5	1	6	7	2
■	2	3	7	6	■	4	■
2	6	1	■	7	8	■	5
6	■	8	2	■	1	5	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3193



SOLUTION TO 3192

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3721

9								■
	■					5	1	
		■				■		
	4		■	6	■	2	3	
		8		■				
			■		4		9	1
	2	3			9	■		7
	9		2	4	7		■	
5								8

SOLUTION TO 3720

4	5	1	9	6	8	2	3	7
8	2	9	3	4	7	6	5	1
3	7	6	5	1	2	9	4	8
2	6	3	7	9	4	8	1	5
9	8	5	1	3	6	7	2	4
1	4	7	2	8	5	3	9	6
5	9	8	4	7	3	1	6	2
7	1	4	6	2	9	5	8	3
6	3	2	8	5	1	4	7	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

TIGHTER VETTING POLICY

US ends automatic extension of work permits for foreign workers

New rules mandate re-vetting for foreign workers

WASHINGTON, PTI

The Trump administration has rolled back a Biden-era policy and made re-vetting mandatory for foreign non-immigrant visa holders seeking an extension of work permits, a move likely to impact Indians as well.

The new rules, which end the practice of automatically extending the validity of employment authorisation documents (EADs) for foreign workers in certain categories, came into effect on Thursday.

In May 2022, the Biden administration had amended rules to provide an automatic 540-day extension of EADs without any verification process once applicants filed for renewal of employment authorisation.

The earlier decision to grant extensions without verification was taken in view of about 1.5 million pending requests for work permits at the time, amid concerns that further delays could lead to unemployment. Non-immigrant visa holders in specific categories require an EAD to work temporarily in the US. An EAD serves as proof that a non-immigrant foreign worker is authorised to work in the country for a defined period.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Wednesday announced the withdrawal of the provision to automatically extend EADs for foreigners filing renewal applications.

It said the move was aimed at ensuring proper screening and vetting of foreigners before extending their employment authorisations.

"The interim final rule does not affect EADs automatically extended before October 30," it said.

The validity of an EAD generally ranges from one to two years, though in some categories it may be granted for as long as five years.

Joseph Edlow, Director of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), said his organisation is placing renewed emphasis on robust screening and vetting of foreigners, "eliminating" policies of the previous administration that prioritised convenience for foreigners over the safety and security of Americans.

"It's a commonsense measure to ensure appropriate vetting and screening has been completed before an alien's employment authorisation or documentation is extended. All aliens must remember that working in the US is a privilege, not a right," he said.

Applicants must file Form I-765 to obtain an EAD, and eligibility depends on immigration status.

A significant number of non-immigrant foreigners in various categories — including students, refugees, and dependents of employees of diplomatic missions and international organisations — are eligible to apply for EADs.

Students with F-1 non-immigrant visas seeking Optional Practical Training (OPT) in positions directly related to their area of study are also eligible. F-1 visa holders with off-campus employment under the sponsorship of qualifying international organisations, or those facing severe economic hardship, may also apply.

Similarly, STEM students (those with degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics) are eligible to apply for 24-month EAD extensions.

Trump orders restart of nuclear weapons tests

We'll match what Russia and China are doing: US Prez

BUSAN (SOUTH KOREA), REUTERS

President Donald Trump on Thursday ordered the US military to immediately resume testing nuclear weapons after a gap of 33 years, minutes before beginning a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump made the surprise announcement on Truth Social while aboard his Marine One helicopter en route to meet Xi for a trade-negotiating session in Busan, South Korea. He said he was instructing the Pentagon to test the US nuclear arsenal on an "equal basis" with other nuclear powers.

"Because of other countries' testing programmes, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our nuclear weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately," Trump posted. "Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within five years."

Trump appeared to be sending a message to both Xi — who has more than doubled China's nuclear warhead arsenal over the past five years — and to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has tested two new nuclear-powered weapons in recent days.

Russia, which tested a new nuclear-powered cruise missile on October 21, held nuclear readiness drills on October 22 and tested a new nuclear-powered autonomous torpedo on October 28, said it hoped Trump had been informed that Moscow had not tested a nuclear weapon.

"President Trump mentioned that other countries are engaged in testing nuclear weapons. Until now, we didn't know that anyone was testing," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Putin, who commands the world's largest arsenal of nuclear warheads, has repeatedly said that if any country tests a nuclear weapon, then Russia will do so too.

No nuclear power — other than North Korea, most recently in 2017 — has carried out explosive nuclear testing in over 25 years. Post-Soviet Russia has never tested; the Soviet Union last tested in 1990, the US in 1992, and China in 1996. China's Foreign Ministry called on the US to abide by its commitment to a moratorium on testing.

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was referring to nuclear-explosive testing — which would be carried out by the National Nuclear Security Administration — or flight testing of nuclear-capable missiles.

Trump said testing was needed to ensure the US kept up with rival nuclear powers. Trump's decision follows a rapid expansion of China's nuclear stockpile in recent years and came shortly after Russia tests of a nuclear-powered missile and nuclear-powered torpedo.

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"With others doing testing, I think it's appropriate that we do also.

US President Donald Trump talks to China's President Xi Jinping after their formal talks at the Gimhae Air Base in Busan, South Korea, on Thursday. AFP

US, China agree to one-year truce in trade war

Leaders roll back tariffs, pledge to resolve key disputes

BUSAN, NYT NEWS SERVICE

NO MEGA DEAL

- US halved import duties on Chinese goods from 55% to around 45%, while China agreed to suspend new restrictions on rare earth exports for one year
- China will resume purchases of American soybeans, and both sides discussed semiconductor trade – though no decision was made on Nvidia chips or TikTok's status

After a series of failed attempts to de-escalate a bitter trade war, President Donald Trump and China's leader, Xi Jinping, have agreed to a yearlong truce that rolls back many of the contentious tariffs and retaliatory measures that deepened the feud between the world's two largest economies.

The two leaders met at an airport in Busan, on South Korea's southeastern coast, for their first in-person meeting of Trump's second term, with much at stake: an economic dispute that had simmered for months was threatening to boil over. Earlier this month, Trump threatened to impose an additional 100% tariff on Chinese goods after China introduced its toughest-ever restrictions on the export of rare earth metals.

Cooler heads eventually prevailed. Following about 90 minutes of talks, the leaders agreed on a series of measures that broke little new ground but helped unwind several thorny issues obstructing progress towards a lasting trade deal.

Trump and Xi agreed to a one-year truce, extending a pause they had instituted earlier after tit-for-tat escalations drove tariffs on each other's imports beyond 100%. They had first agreed to limit further tariff increases in May, a pause extended for three months in August. The current agreement had been due to expire on November 10.

Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One, on his return to Washington, that he had agreed to halve a punitive 20% import duty he had placed on Chinese goods. Those tariffs were imposed after he accused China of failing to prevent fentanyl and other chemicals used in producing synthetic opioid from entering the US.

He said on Thursday that he decided to reduce the duty because he believed China was serious about taking the necessary steps to stop the flow of such chemical precursors. The reduced tariffs, effective immediately, would lower the overall duty on many Chinese goods to about 45% from around 55%.

Additionally, China agreed to suspend for one year a series of new measures that threatened to further restrict the supply of rare earth metals — crucial components in advanced manufacturing industries.

Trump described his summit with Xi as a "great meeting", saying that "a lot of finalisation" had been achieved. He added that he expected a full trade deal with China "pretty soon". "We have not too many stumbling blocks," Trump said. "All of the rare earth has been settled." The Chinese government's official summary was more measured. It said both sides had reached consensus on key economic and trade issues and that officials would "finalise follow-up work".

In a gesture of compromise, Trump said he would postpone plans to impose steep fees on Chinese-built or Chinese-owned ships arriving at US ports. China, in turn, agreed to stand down on its own high fees imposed in retaliation on ships built in the United States, though few of those vessels remain in international service.

Trump repeats claim of India slashing Russian oil imports

NEW DELHI, DHNS: US President Donald Trump avoided the issue of China's oil purchase from Russia during his meeting with President Xi Jinping at Busan in South Korea on Thursday, despite accusing both it and India of funding the war in Ukraine by continuing energy imports from the former Soviet Union nation. He, however, kept claiming that India had agreed to slash its oil imports from Russia.

As several India-based refiners stopped ordering crude oil from Russia, New Delhi on Thursday said decisions on energy imports would "naturally take into account the evolving dynamics of the global market".

"We really didn't discuss the oil," Trump told journalists aboard Air Force One, while returning to Washington, DC, after meeting Xi, adding: "He has been buying oil from Russia for a long time. It takes care of a big part of China."

He imposed on August 6 a 25% tariff — on top of the 25% imposed earlier — on all US imports from India as a punitive action because the latter continued to buy oil from Russia, notwithstanding the US and the European Union's sanctions on President Vladimir Putin's country for launching "special military operations" in Ukraine in February 2022.

17 Indians rescued from Annapurna Base

KATHMANDU, PTI: Security personnel on Thursday rescued 72 trekkers, including 17 Indian tourists, who were stranded at Annapurna Base Camp in Nepal's Myagdi due to continuous snowfall.

All the foreign tourists who reached the Annapurna Base camp were Indian nationals. The tourists were stranded after heavy snow blocked routes along the Dhaulagiri Circuit trail, known as the "Hidden Valley", which connects Myagdi and Mustang districts.

US caps refugee admissions at 7,500

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: The Trump administration is restricting the number of refugees it admits into the country to 7,500 and they will mostly be white South Africans, a dramatic drop after the US previously allowed in hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war and persecution from around the world.

The administration published the news on Thursday in a notice on the Federal Registry.

No reason was given for the numbers, which are a dramatic decrease from last year's ceiling set under the Biden administration of 125,000. The Associated Press previously reported that the administration was considering admitting as few as 7,500 refugees and mostly white South Africans.

South Korea, Japan vow to improve ties

GYEONGJU (SOUTH KOREA), AP/PTI

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi met in their first summit on Thursday, pledging to strengthen ties that have often been strained by their bitter wartime history.

Their meeting in South Korea came after both launched charm offensives toward US President Donald Trump, who visited their countries and pressed the two key US allies to complete their massive US investment pledges.

Meeting with Takaichi ahead of the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Gyeongju, Lee said South Korea and Japan share common challenges in the face of 'rapidly changing international dynamics and trade conditions' and that their future-oriented cooperation was more important than ever.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi with South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung in Gyeongju on Thursday. REUTERS

Takaichi said trilateral cooperation between Tokyo, Seoul and Washington is becoming increasingly crucial 'under the current strategic environment', according to Lee's office. The two leaders agreed to continue their 'shuttle diplomacy', in which they take turns hosting summits, Lee's office said in a statement.

Takaichi described her first talks with Lee as 'very enjoyable and meaningful', adding that she believes 'we will welcome (Lee) in Japan next time'.

The Oct 22 election of Takaichi raised concern in Seoul about a potential deterioration in ties, as South Koreans view her right-wing views on history as hawkish. She has resisted acknowledging Japanese aggression during World War II and atrocities, and denied that coercion was used against Korean labourers and women held as sexual slaves for Japanese troops.

PREMIUM PRICE

Tipu's pistols, Ranjit Singh painting set auction record

LONDON, PTI

A pair of pistols made for Tipu Sultan and an intricate painting of Maharaja Ranjit Singh were among the standout lots that helped set a new auction record for Sotheby's in London this week.

The Arts of the Islamic World and India sale on Wednesday fetched a combined total of over £10 million, with both historic Indian items far exceeding their guide price estimates.

The 18th-century Mysore ruler's silver-mounted flintlock pistols, made especially for the "Tiger of Mysore," sold to a private collector for almost 14 times their estimate, achieving £1.1 million.

The painting of the 19th-century founder of the Sikh Empire, depicting Maharaja Ranjit Singh in procession through a bazaar by artist Bishan Singh, set a new record for Sikh art when it was acquired by an institution for £952,500. "This wonderfully detailed processional scene depicts Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Sikh leader, riding his elephant through a bazaar in Lahore," Sotheby's said.

In line with many of his swords and weapons from the past, Tipu Sultan's pistols are traced back to the siege of Seringapatam by the East India Company in May 1799, during which the Mysore ruler was killed and his possessions, including his firearms, were looted and taken to Britain.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Leader of Democrats 66 Rob Jetten addresses the media in The Hague on Thursday. AFP

Netherlands nailbiter as far-right, centrists in election dead-heat

The Dutch election climaxed in an unprecedented cliffhanger on Thursday, with only a few thousand votes separating the far-right party of firebrand Geert Wilders and a pro-European centrist party, AFP reports from The Hague.

With 99.7 percent of votes tallied, the D66 party led by the energetic Rob Jetten, 38, was just 15,000 ahead of the anti-Islam PVV Freedom Party run by Wilders. Every major party has ruled out working with Wilders, meaning Jetten is on track to become the country's youngest and first openly gay prime minister -- even if he comes second. All eyes turned to some 100,000 overseas postal votes that will only be tallied Monday or Tuesday before a final result can be called. Historically, expats have tended to prefer D66 over the PVV, so Wilders seems unlikely to overtake. With far-right parties surging in France, Britain, and Germany, the vote was closely watched as a bellwether of populist strength in Europe. Wilders was projected to carry 26 seats in the 150-seat parliament, which would be a loss of 11 compared to his stunning election win in 2023.

ISS marks 25 years in orbit

The International Space Station (ISS) this weekend celebrates 25 years of continuous human presence in orbit — an unprecedented milestone in space exploration, AP/PTI reports.

Since November 2000, the orbiting laboratory has been home to nearly 300 visitors, including astronauts, cosmonauts, space tourists, and even a film director. The first full-time residents opened the hatch on November 2, 2000. With only five years left at the scientific outpost, NASA is counting on private companies to launch their own orbiting stations. NASA's Bill Shepherd and Russia's Sergei Krikalev and Yuri Gidzenko took off in a Russian Soyuz rocket from Kazakhstan on October 31, 2000. They reached the dark, humid, three-room station two days later.

People navigate a flooded street on boats during heavy rains in Hoi An, Vietnam, on Thursday. AFP

Russia hits Ukraine's power grid

The latest in a sustained Russian campaign of massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure brought power outages and restrictions in all the country's regions on Thursday, officials said, with the Ukrainian prime minister describing Moscow's tactic as "systematic energy terror", AP/PTI reports from Kyiv.

The strikes, which were the latest in Russia's almost daily attacks on the Ukrainian power grid as bitter winter temperatures approach, killed at least three people, including a 7-year-old girl, according to authorities. Children between 2 and 16 years of age were among the 17 injured. Russia launched more than 650 drones and more than 50 missiles of various types in the attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Grand Egyptian Museum opens

After two decades of anticipation and countless delays, the Grand Egyptian Museum is finally having its grand reveal, AP/PTI reports from Cairo.

The museum, which is set to officially open Saturday, highlights Egypt's ancient civilization and is a centrepiece of the government's drive to boost the tourist industry, a major source of foreign currency in the cash-strapped country. Located just outside Cairo next to the famed Giza Pyramids, the USD 1 billion mammoth facility is poised to become the world's largest museum dedicated to a single civilization with over 50,000 artifacts detailing the life in ancient Egypt. By comparison, the Louvre Museum in Paris has about 35,000 pieces on display.

Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese village of Ej Jarmaq on Thursday. AFP

Cobrapost alleges Rs 41,900 cr fund diversion at Anil Ambani's group

Company denies 'malicious' claims

NEW DELHI, PTI

Investigative portal Cobrapost on Thursday alleged Anil Ambani's Reliance Group had committed a massive financial fraud exceeding Rs 41,921 crore through diversion of funds from group companies since 2006 - a charge the group denied as a malicious campaign aimed at crashing stock prices.

Cobrapost claimed that about Rs 28,874 crore raised through bank loans, IPO proceeds, and bonds was siphoned from listed Group firms, including Reliance Communications, Reliance Capital, Reliance Home Finance, Reliance Commercial Finance, and Reliance Corporate Advisory Services, to promoter-linked companies.

Citing its investigation, it also alleged that an additional $1.535 billion (Rs 13,047 crore) was routed into India "in a fraudulent manner" through offshore entities in Singapore, Mauritius,

Anil Ambani

Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands, the US, and the UK, using a network of subsidiaries and shell firms.

Cobrapost claimed that a Singapore-based company, Emerging Market Investments & Trading Pte (EMITS), received $750 million from a "mysterious benefactor", NexGen Capital, and later transferred the amount to Reliance Innoventures, the Reliance Group's holding company, before being dissolved - a transaction it says "could amount to money laundering".

The report cites violations of the Companies Act, FEMA, PMLA, Sebi Act, and Income Tax Act, and says its findings are based on filings and orders from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, SEBI, NCLT, RBI, and foreign jurisdictions.

It also alleged misuse of corporate funds for personal luxury purchases, including a $20 million yacht reportedly bought by Anil Ambani in 2008 through a listed group company.

The investigation claims ADA Group firms used dozens of pass-through entities and SPVs to divert funds, which were later written off, leaving all six key listed companies in financial distress.

Cobrapost said the total diversion - domestic and foreign - exceeded Rs 41,921 crore, routed via "dozens of pass-through entities, subsidiaries, shell companies and offshore vehicles" across jurisdictions such as the British Virgin Islands, Cyprus, Mauritius, Singapore, the US and the UK.

Editor Aniruddha Bahal said the probe drew on official filings and court orders from agencies, including the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, SEBI, NCLT, and RBI. He alleged "total erosion of public wealth" of Rs 3.38 lakh crore, including losses in market capitalisation and bad loans.

In response, the Reliance Group dismissed the report as a recycled, agenda-driven corporate hit job by a "dead platform resurrected" by entities with direct commercial interest to acquire the group's assets.

It said the allegations were based on "old, publicly available information already examined by the CBI, ED, Sebi and other agencies". This was "an organised attempt to prejudice a fair trial".

Condemning the report as "a malicious campaign to tarnish its reputation and mislead stakeholders", the group described Cobrapost as "a dead platform resurrected as a corporate hit-job."

Toyota steps up India expansion with new SUVs, rural push

TOKYO, REUTERS: Toyota plans to launch 15 new and refreshed models in India by the end of the decade while deepening its rural network, sources said, as record profits in the country make the market increasingly important.

Battered by stiff local competition in China, several global automakers have set their sights on India as a market worthy of heavy investment, especially given surging economic growth that has averaged 8% over the past three fiscal years.

Underscoring Toyota's revved-up ambitions, the Japanese automaker is now aiming to lift its share of the country's passenger car market before the end of the decade to 10% from 8% currently, one of the sources said.

Success would see it become less reliant on alliance partner Suzuki, which provides Toyota with vehicles that are then rebadged under the Toyota brand.

New plant, new SUVs

Toyota last year announced more than $3 billion in investment to expand production at its existing factory in southern India and build a new car plant in western Maharashtra state. But details of its product line-up plans and dealership strategies have not previously been reported.

The 15 models will include Toyota's own cars, vehicles supplied by Suzuki, as well as upgrades of existing models, according to three people briefed on the matter.

Canara Bank Q2 profit rises 19%

NEW DELHI, PTI: State-owned Canara Bank on Thursday reported 19% increase in net profit at Rs 4,774 crore for the second quarter ended September on the back of decline in bad loans.

The bank had earned a net profit of Rs 4,015 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income increased to Rs 38,598 crore in the second quarter from Rs 34,721 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Interest income improved to Rs 31,544 crore from Rs 29,740 crore in the same quarter a year ago. However, net interest income witnessed moderation in the quarter to Rs 9,141 crore as against Rs 9,315 crore a year ago. Operating profit also increased to Rs 8,588 crore as against Rs 7,654 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

In terms of asset quality, gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of the bank moderated to 2.35% of gross advances at the end of September 2025 as against 3.73% by the year-ago period. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans came down to 0.54% at the end of September 2025 as compared to 0.98% at the end of September 2024.

Amazon layoffs: over 800 to lose jobs in India

Employees started receiving e-mail notifications since Tuesday evening

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In the latest round of layoffs, ecommerce giant Amazon announced 14,000 corporate job cuts, and in India, at least 800 people will receive pink slips. According to people familiar with the matter, many have started receiving layoff emails from Tuesday evening.

These job cuts are across functions, including retail business services (RBS) unit, robotics/mechatronics and devices, among others. Sources added that many people lost jobs in Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad offices, as the company has its largest workforce in these cities. Amazon employs about 1,30,000 people in India.

Some laid-off employees shared their experiences online and said they received an email notification, and soon after that, their access was revoked.

"Your device has been put into reduced functionality mode limiting your access," a screenshot shared by an employee read.

Many roles were impacted, especially employees in Prime Video teams. It is learnt that the company is offering job opportunities internally according to employees' skill sets.

An email sent to the Amazon India team regarding this did not elicit any response.

HR experts pointed out that during this transition time, it is important for employees to upskill themselves so as to fit into newer roles according to the company's requirements.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR, said, in today's fast-changing job market, upskilling is no longer optional; it's a survival strategy.

"The recent layoffs across global tech firms underline that even experienced professionals can become redundant if their skills don't evolve with business priorities. Adaptability and continuous learning, especially in areas touched by AI, will define career resilience going forward. What matters now is not just what people studied, but how quickly they can learn, unlearn, and apply new skills. Companies are increasingly valuing tech fluency and human capabilities that complement AI, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation," he said.

From a skills standpoint, demand is rapidly rising for professionals who build expertise in AI, ML, Cybersecurity, Secure DevOps, VAPT, Governance, Risk & Compliance, and Identity & Access Management, he added.

Amazon had announced a workforce reduction of 18,000 employees in January 2023, and again in March, it laid off 9,000 more employees globally.

Beth Galetti, Senior VP of People Experience and Technology at Amazon, said in a note that this generation of AI is the most transformative technology seen since the Internet, and it's enabling companies to innovate much faster than ever before. "We're convicted that we need to be organised more leanly, with fewer layers and more ownership, to move as quickly as possible for our customers and business," she said.

The recent developments in the tech industry have underscored a crucial truth: continuous learning and upskilling are essential to stay relevant and future-ready. With rapid advancements in areas like AI, automation, and data analytics, the expectations from professionals are evolving, said Abhimanyu Saxena, co-founder of Scaler & Interviewbit.

He added that today's workforce is expected not just to keep up with technology but to leverage it by using AI, ML, and data-driven insights to drive innovation and impact. Upskilling is no longer optional; it's the foundation for long-term career growth and resilience.

Post-Diwali Shocker

- Amazon has announced **14,000** corporate job cuts globally
- In India, **800** people will be impacted; many have received layoff emails
- There are around **1.30 lakh** people working in Amazon India
- Job cuts are done across functions including retail business services, robotics, and devices

Amazon had reduced **18,000** employees globally in January 2023 and **9,000** employees in March 2023

"We're convicted that we need to be organised more leanly, with fewer layers and more ownership, to move as quickly as possible for our customers and business,"
BETH GALETTI, Senior VP of People Experience and Technology, Amazon

Equities drop over US rate concerns, Trump-Xi trade deal

Nifty50 slipped 0.68% & BSE Sensex 0.7%

REUTERS

Shares fell on Thursday as investor sentiment cooled after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell raised doubts over a December rate reduction following a 25-basis-point cut, while caution over the U.S.-China deal weighed on other Asian markets.

The Nifty 50 fell 0.68% to 25,877.85 and the BSE Sensex lost 0.7% to 84,404.46.

Despite the drop on the day, the Nifty and Sensex have gained about 5.2% each in October and are trading nearly 1.5% and 1.8%, respectively, below their all-time highs hit in September 2024.

Powell's statements, which indicated that Wednesday's cut could likely be the last one this year due to the lack of official data during the ongoing federal government shutdown, prompted some caution, according to analysts.

Other Asian markets fell 0.4% as investors worried that the tariff detente between the US and China could prove fleeting. US President Donald Trump said he had made a trade deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping on rare earths and tariffs.

"The U.S-China agreements appear to be marginal in nature and targeted at specific current 'pain' points. They do not, at least to us, represent a 'grand bargain' or a large-scale reset of the relationship," said William Bratton, analyst at BNP Paribas Exane.

Fourteen of the 16 major sectors declined, while the broader small-caps and mid-caps fell 0.1% each.

Pharma index lost 0.6%, dragged by a 3.9% drop in drugmaker Dr Reddy's Laboratories after its weight-loss drug faced regulatory setback in Canada. Cipla, which posted a profit beat, fell 2.5% after it announced that its global CEO Umang Vohra will step down, effective March 2026.

Rupee falls to fortnightly low on Fed's hawkish jolt, outflows

MUMBAI, REUTERS: The rupee slid to its lowest in two weeks on Thursday as outflows worsened the hit from a hawkish tilt in Federal Reserve policy, which sent the dollar and US Treasury yields higher.

The rupee closed at 88.6950 against the US dollar, down 0.6% on the day, after touching a two-week low of 88.7375 earlier in the session.

India's central bank likely stepped in intermittently, via state-run banks, to limit the rupee's losses but the intervention was not aggressive, traders said.

"A lot of stop losses have been triggered in 88.40 to 88.50 zone leading to fresh highs in USD/INR," a trader at a state-run bank said.

"Regardless of the jolt provided by Chair Powell overnight, we think the hurdle for not cutting in December is very high," analysts at DBS said in a note.

CORPORATE SCOREBOARD Q2FY26

Hyundai Motor India beats profit view on higher exports

Hyundai Motor India reported a second-quarter profit above estimates on Thursday, as strong overseas demand for its vehicles helped overcome a decline in domestic car sales.

The Indian unit of South Korea's Hyundai Motor reported a 14.3% climb in consolidated profit to Rs 1,572 crore for the quarter ended September 30, beating analysts' estimates of Rs 1,495 crore, per data compiled by LSEG.

During the quarter, Hyundai's overall sales volumes dipped slightly, with domestic sales falling nearly 7%. Exports remained a bright spot. The carmaker, India's second-largest car exporter, reported a 21.5% rise in overseas shipments.

This drove revenue 1.2% higher to Rs 17,461 crore.

Dabur posts profit miss as consumption tax cuts disrupt sales

FMCG company Dabur reported a smaller-than-expected rise in second-quarter profit on Thursday due to a temporary sales disruption after the government announced sweeping cuts to goods and services taxes (GST).

The company's consolidated net profit for the September quarter rose 6.5% to Rs 453 crore from a low base, falling short of analysts' average estimate of Rs 455 crore, as per data compiled by LSEG.

Dabur had logged a one-time inventory adjustment in the year-ago quarter, pulling its profit down 18%.

The company's revenue for the reporting quarter - up 5.4% to Rs3,191 crore - narrowly missed analysts' estimate of Rs 3,208 crore. However, its net profit margin of 13.94% remained steady, compared to 13.79% in the year-ago quarter.

Cipla beats profit view on steady demand for respiratory drugs

Cipla reported a better-than-expected second-quarter profit on Thursday, driven by steady demand for its respiratory drugs.

The country's third-largest drugmaker by sales posted a 3.7% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,351 crore in the quarter ended September 30, beating analysts' estimates of Rs 1,347 crore, per data compiled by LSEG.

Total revenue increased 7.6% to Rs 7,589 crore, slightly above expectations of Rs 7,430 crore. Revenue from India, Cipla's biggest market by sales, climbed 7% to Rs 3,146 crore, led by an 8% climb in sales of respiratory drugs. The drugmaker said sales in North America stood at $233 million during the quarter, against $237 million in the year-ago period.

Quess Corp Q1 net profit up 19%

Business services provider Quess Corp today reported a 19.16% rise in net profit to Rs 54.40 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2018. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 45.65 crore for the same period a year ago, Quess Corp said in a filing to BSE. "Following the acquisitions done in the previous year, there has been a non-operating accounting charge of Rs 16 crore in the current quarter (Q1'FY19)... post adjustment of these non-operating items, the normalised operating PAT for Q1 FY19 would increase to Rs 70 crore," the company said in a statement.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 1,968.35 crore for the quarter under consideration from Rs 1,297.30 crore during the same period a year ago. "We had a promising start to the new financial year. Our revenues grew by 52% and EBITDA by 36% YoY," Quess Corp Chairman and MD Ajit Isaac said. The company's margins has been impacted by the seasonality in the newly acquired businesses and due to the strategic investments in Monster and DigiCare, he added.

ITC Q2 consolidated net profit up 4.1%, revenue dips marginally

KOLKATA, PTI

Diversified conglomerate ITC Ltd on Thursday reported a 4.1% year-on-year (YoY) rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 5,187 crore for the second quarter of the 2025-26 fiscal as compared to Rs 5,054 crore in the same period last year.

Consolidated revenue from operations for the July-September quarter marginally declined to Rs 21,256 crore from Rs 21,536 crore a year ago, reflecting a normalisation in the agri business that had witnessed an exceptional export base in the previous year, the company informed the bourses.

Its FMCG segment, comprising cigarettes and other branded packaged foods and personal care products, remained the key growth driver.

The segment revenue rose 7% YoY to Rs 15,473 crore from Rs 14,463 crore.

However, agri business revenue dropped to Rs 4,038 crore from Rs 5,845 crore due to restrictions on certain crop exports, while paperboards, paper and packaging turnover inched up to Rs 2,220 crore from Rs 2,114 crore a year ago.

Discontinued operations in consolidated accounts represent operations of the hotel business, which was demerged from January 2025.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) rose modestly by 2.2 per cent to Rs 6,695 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 6,552 crore in the year-ago period, with margins holding steady despite continued investment in brand building across the FMCG–Others segment (excluding cigarettes).

Excessive rains in many parts of the country and the transition to new GST rates posed operational challenges, especially for the FMCG categories, causing short-term business disruptions during the quarter, the Kolkata-headquartered company said.

US extends exemption from sanctions for Chabahar Port

NEW DELHI, DHNS: President Donald Trump's administration in Washington DC, has decided to continue for six more months a 2018 waiver, which allowed India to continue its role in the operations of the Chabahar Port in Iran despite sanctions on the Persian Gulf nation.

The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi confirmed on Thursday that the US had extended the waiver for six months, effective from October 29. The Chabahar Port has strategic importance for New Delhi as it gives India a sea-land access to Afghanistan and Central Asia through Iran, bypassing its arch-rival Pakistan.

Swiggy Q2 net loss widens; mulls raising Rs 10k cr fund via QIP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Food delivery platform Swiggy on Thursday reported a net loss of Rs 1,092 crore for the quarter ended September 2025, compared to Rs 626 crore loss it had posted during the year-ago period. Its revenue from operations stood at Rs 5,561 crore, a 54% increase compared to Rs 3,601 crore in the same quarter last year. The aggregator also announced that it will consider raising Rs 10,000 crore in the board meeting to be held on November 7 through a qualified institutional placement (QIP).

In the second quarter, the platform's average monthly transacting users (MTU) grew 34% year-on-year (YoY) to 22.9 million. "Food delivery continued its growth trajectory in line with our guidance, with a steady 18.8% YoY GOV (gross order value) growth even amidst volatile macro-consumption trends and higher-than-usual rainfall. Led by competitive action, subscription programmes expanded their ambit even further. Despite the recent narrative on platform fee hikes, the total cost of service for users remains 5-6% of AOV (average order value) over the last 3 years," Sriharsha Majety, Co-founder, MD & Group CEO, Swiggy, said.

RIL to offer free Google AI Pro access worth Rs 35,100 to select Jio users

NEW DELHI, PTI: Reliance Industries on Thursday said its artificial intelligence arm Reliance Intelligence has partnered with Google to offer free access to Google AI Pro for 18 months, worth Rs 35,100 to select Jio 5G users initially.

The Reliance-Google offer includes higher access to Google's Gemini 2.5 Pro model in the Gemini app, higher limits to generate stunning images and videos with their state-of-the-art Nano Banana and Veo 3.1 models, expanded access to Notebook LM for study and research, 2 TB of cloud storage, etc, a statement said.

The development follows an announcement by OpenAI to offer 'ChatGPT Go', which supports higher query limits and more image generation, free for one year to users in India who sign up during a limited-time promotional period beginning November 4.

"Reliance Intelligence aims to make intelligence services accessible to 1.45 billion Indians. Through our collaboration with strategic and long-term partners like Google, we aim to make India not just AI-enabled but AI-empowered - where every citizen and enterprise can harness intelligent tools to create, innovate and grow," RIL Chairman Mukesh D Ambani said.

Ayush Shetty. FILE PHOTO

Ayush, Kiran score stunning victories

SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY), PTI: Ayush Shetty and Kiran George grabbed the headlines on a fruitful day for India at the Hylo Open Super 500 badminton tournament, registering stunning wins over higher-ranked opponents to storm into the men's singles quarterfinals here on Thursday.

If US Open champion Ayush thrashed former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in a lop-sided contest, Kiran showed grit and composure en route to an upset win over world No.13 Toma Junior Popov of France.

Ayush's pinpoint accuracy in attack, athleticism in defence and total command at the net helped him shock Loh, the 2021 world champion, 21-11, 21-11 in a round-of-16 match.

World No.38 Kiran, son of former national champion George Thomas, produced a gritty performance to outwit eighth seed Popov 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 in a 69-minute thriller at the USD 475,000 event.

Earlier, Lakshya Sen and Rakshitha Ramesh booked their berths in the men's and women's singles quarterfinals with contrasting victories.

Lakshya, the 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, eased past compatriot S Subramanian 21-14, 21-11, while Rakshitha overcame Shriyanshi Valishetty 19-21, 21-8, 21-13.

CRICKET FOUR-DAY GAME

India A wrest early initiative

Kotian, Suthar help hosts reduce South Africa A to 299/9

India A's Tanush Kotian appeals for an LBW verdict against Jordan Hermann of South Africa A on the opening day of their four-day game in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The returning Rishabh Pant passed his fitness test in flying colours as the crafty Tanush Kotian ensured India A expectedly dominated South Africa A on the opening day of their first four-day game here on Thursday.

Determined to make a statement, South Africa A took the attack to India A with Jordan Hermann (71), Zubayr Hamza (66) and Rubin Hermann (54) scoring fine half-centuries, but the inability of any of the triumvirate to convert their knocks into a big one saw the visitors crumble to 299/9 in 85.1 overs at stumps at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of the city.

The primary reason why India A were able to run through South Africa A after the visitors made a promising start when surprisingly being asked to take first strike by Pant was the brilliance of Mumbai off-spinner Kotian, easily the standout bowler with his 4/83 effort.

Two of the 27-year-old Kotian's victims were the well-set Hermann brothers, with both balls showcasing his ability to pick wickets against the run of play—a skill the gritty all-rounder has often displayed for domestic heavyweights Mumbai.

He first dismissed Jordan with a faster one. Going through a nice spell in the second session where he dismissed skipper Marques Ackerman for his first scalp, Kotian let one rip, and the left-handed Jordan was caught stuck in his crease to be adjudged leg-before wicket. Jordan seemed unhappy with the decision, indicating there might have been some bat on it, but Kotian was delighted at having dismissed the danger man.

Kotian then delivered another crucial blow in the third session by removing Jordan's elder brother, Rubin, that kick-started South Africa's slide. Just like how he outfoxed Jordan, Kotian got the ball to fizz, and Rubin,caught in two minds, tried to cut it on the back foot. He was late on the shot and the ball took an inside edge to rattle the stumps.

It brought an end to a doughty 72-run stand for the sixth wicket between Rubin and Tiaan van Vuurem, and from there, South Africa A's slide started with the visitors collapsing to 299/9 amidst a spirited effort from the Indian bowlers who bent their backs in the final half hour to swing the momentum in their favour.

Pant on song

Even more encouraging from the opening day's play was how comfortable Pant looked in his first match since fracturing his right foot during the Manchester Test against England in late July.

In the opening hour, where pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Gurnoor Brar sprayed the ball all over, Pant showed wonderful footwork to gather them without much fuss. He was on the mark against spinners Manav Suthar and Kotian too, hardly letting anything pass him on a warm day.

His captaincy was equally sharp, the 28-year-old making timely bowling changes that ensured India A never lost complete grip of the game even when South Africa A motored on strongly, firstly through the 130-run second-wicket partnership between Jordan and Zubayr and then through Rubin and Tiann.

Like he does with the national team, he constantly kept chirping, ensuring the concentration and energy levels never dipped. And it all paid off handsomely in the end. All eyes will be on his batting on Friday, where he'll be hoping to put a relatively inexperienced South African bowling attack to the sword.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA A (I Innings): Jordan Hermann lbw Kotian 71 (141b, 8x4), Lesego Senokwane c Mhatre b Kamboj 9 (7b), Zubayr Hamza c Pant b Brar 66 (109b, 9x4, 1x6), Marques Ackerman c Suthar b Kotian 18 (22b, 2x4), Rubin Hermann b Kotian 54 (87b, 6x4), Rivaldo Moonswamy c Badoni b Suthar 5 (18b, 1x4), Tiaan van Vuuren c Padikkal b Suthar 46 (75b, 5x4, 1x6), Prenelan Subrayen b Kotian 1 (9b), Tshepo Moreki (batting) 4 (38b), Lutho Sipamla lbw Khaleel 6 (16b). Extras (B-12, LB-4, W-2, NB-10) 28. **TOTAL (for 9 wkts, 85.2 overs) 299.**

Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Senokwane), 2-136 (Hamza), 3-170 (Ackerman), 4-187 (J Hermann), 5-197 (Moonswamy), 6-269 (R Hermann), 7-277 (Subrayen), 8-289 (Vuuren), 9-299 (Sipamla).

Bowling: Khaleel Ahmed 12.2-0-54-1, Anshul Kamboj 13-2-36-1, Gurnoor Brar 15-2-45-1, Manav Suthar 20-4-62-2, Tanush Kotian 23–5-83-4, Ayush Badoni 2-0-3-0.

Boxers clinch multiple medals

Beach wrestlers finish on top of podium

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), PTI

India continued their impressive show at the Youth Asian Games, clinching four golds, two silvers and one bronze in boxing, along with three gold and two silver medals in beach wrestling here on Thursday.

India's medal tally has swelled to 47 medals, including 13 golds, 17 silvers and 17 bronze.

The boxers delivered a historic performance, finishing with the highest medal tally by any discipline in the Indian contingent as Khushi Chand (46kg), Ahaana Sharma (50kg), Chandrika Bhoreshi Pujari (54kg), and Anshika (+80kg) secured gold medals.

Khushi defeated China's Luo Jinxiu 4:1, displaying exceptional precision and control, while Ahaana followed with a first-round Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) win against Ma Jong Hyang of Korea.

Chandrika then secured gold with a commanding 5:0 decision over Uzbekistan's

Boxer Chandrika Pujari celebrates after the verdict goes in her favour during the girls' 54kg gold medal match. ASIAN BOXING

Muhammadova Kumriniso and Anshika added the fourth gold, while Harnoor Kaur (66kg) claimed silver after a hard-fought bout.

On the boys' side, Lanchenba Singh Moibungkhongbam (50kg) fought valiantly but narrowly missed gold, taking silver against Kazakhstan's Nurmakhan Zhumagali.

Earlier, Anant Deshmukh (66kg) clinched bronze, rounding off a stellar campaign for India's young boxers.

In beach wrestling, Sani Subhash Fulmali and Anjali won gold medals in the boys' and girls' 60kg and 55kg categories respectively.

Saudis turned down offer to sign Messi

RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA), AFP: Saudi Arabia declined an offer to sign Lionel Messi **(in pic)** for a short-term stint in the Saudi Pro League before next year's World Cup, according to a senior official.

"During the last Club World Cup, Messi's team contacted me and offered for him to play in Saudi Arabia because the MLS will stop for nearly four months," Abdullah Hammad, CEO of the Mahd Sports Academy, said during a podcast with Saudi platform Thmanyah.

"The player wanted to remain in shape and prepare himself for the upcoming 2026 World Cup. "This happened with David Beckham when he was with Los Angeles Galaxy and went to AC Milan (in 2010)," he added.

Jannik Sinner

Ice-cool Sinner cruises past Bergs at Paris Masters

PARIS, AFP: Jannik Sinner began his tilt at a maiden Paris Masters crown which would return him to world No. 1 with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Zizou Bergs on Wednesday, while reigning champion Alexander Zverev battled through a lengthy three-setter.

Following the surprise exit of world No.1 Carlos Alcaraz at the round of 32 stage, a maiden crown in the ATP 1000 event in the French capital would return Sinner to the summit of the world rankings. But the Italian showed no signs of feeling the weight of that pressure.

Shelton beats Rublev

American fifth seed Ben Shelton beat Russia's Andrey Rublev 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 on Thursday to book his spot in the quarterfinals.

Gill's 7-for gives Banglore Zone the lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Suvik Gill's seven-wicket haul was the cornerstone of Bangalore Zone's dominant show against Tumkur Zone in a KSCA Under-16 Inter-zonal tournament here.

Gill claimed 7 wickets while conceding only as many runs to help Bangalore skittle Tumkur for a paltry 82 in their first innings. Bangalore replied with 255/5 in their stipulated 90 overs with Aditya Jha coming up with a sedate 107.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Tumkur Zone: 82 all out in 36 overs (Narasimha 2-10, Suvik Gill 7-7) and 91/3 in 27 overs (Shivaraj R 73 n.o.) drew Bangalore Zone: 255/5 in 90 overs (Aditya Jha 107, Arnav Ravindra Dere 64 n.o.; Mohammed Shaik 3-41). **Bangalore: 3; Tumkur: 1.**
Secretary's XI: 107 all out in 63.4 overs (Saad Rayyan Khan 28; Vidhat S 2-13, Shrish Khan 3-26, Gokul Sai Shashank Sunkara 2-8, Vedant Venkat Athreya 2-20) and 7/1 in 2.5 overs drew Bangalore City XI: 193 all out in 83.4 overs (Arush Jain 92 n.o., Shrish Khan 30; Om Agarwalla 4-36, Arjun Balu 2-51). **Bangalore City XI: 3 points; Secretary's XI: 1 point.**
Vice President's XI: 98 all out in 37.4 overs (Karan Gowda SD 5-32, Gokul AM 2-18, Bhargav D 2-7) and 267/6 decl. in 63 overs (Sanjit Sathish 92, Uday Charan R 75, Aarav Bajaj 52 n.o.; Gagan DR 2-41) drew Shivamogga Zone: 122 all out in 45.4 overs (Bhargav D 44; P Jayanth Abhiram 2-8, Uday Charan R 2-16, Aarav Bajaj 4-33) and 74/3 in 27 overs (Guruprasad TG 28; Skanda Subbaiah 2-31). **Shivamogga: 3; Vice-President's XI: 1.**
Mangalore Zone: 144 all out in 62.3 overs (Avaneesha SN 28; Ayush R 2-51, Samarth M Kulakarni 5-29, Preetham HG 2-11) drew Mysore Zone: 198/6 in 65 overs (Mohammed Abdulla 29, Ayush R 55, Tarun Yogendra 59 n.o.; Ranjan Pai 3-17, Davin Mascarenhas 2-28). **Mysore: 3; Mangalore: 1.**
Dharwad Zone: 212 all out in 82.3 overs (Joy James Sullad 52, Hyderali Sayyed 66, Ronak Pawar 27; Siddharth Gaikwad 3-34, Atharv Deshpande 2-35, Aadrith 2-10) and 3/2 in 4.1 overs (Siddharth Gaikwad 2-2) drew Combined City XI: 197 all out in 52.1 overs (Rohith M 28, Md Raheel A 72, Atharv Deshpande 46; Harishitgoud 4-59, Ruhaan Shaikh 2-2). **Dharwad: 3; Combined: 1.**
Raichur Zone: 79 all out in 45.2 overs (Eshan M 3-22, Vikram 4-15, Aaryansinh Chavda 3-12) and 41/3 in 16.5 overs (Kashif Ahmed Ali 35 n.o.; Vikram 3-2) drew President's XI: 143 all out in 53.4 overs (Anirudh M 26, Aaryansinh Chavda 35; Kartik Rathod 2-35, Sathvik Kulkarni 2-23, Md Shamsheer 2-26, Chetan Rangraj 4-21). **President's XI: 3; Raichur: 1.**

FCBU retake sole lead with style

BENGALURU, DHNS

Table toppers Bengaluru United once again took sole lead with a 2-0 victory over South United FC in their latest match of the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

Lijo K (24') and Chabungbam Linky Meitei (83') scored on either side of half-time, helping FCBU go three points clear at the top with 35 points (in 14 matches) a day after second-placed Kickstart FC, who play on Friday again, drew level on points.

Sixth-placed South United, on the other hand, missed out on a chance to climb to the third spot as they remain on 22 points from 13 games.

FCBU's Lijo K (centre) celebrates after scoring against SUFC during their Super Division League championship match in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: Bengaluru United: 2 (Lijo K 24th, Chabungbam Linky Meitei 83rd) bt South United: 0; Rebels FC: 2 (Vivek Singh 13th, Ratson Lingu 46th) bt HAL FC: 1 (Md Arshad 63rd); Kodagu FC: 4 (Tagru James 16th, 90+6th, Arunlal M 54th, Muhammed Unais 62nd) bt ASC & Centre FC: 1 (Ujjwal Sambyal 84th).

Paddler Sakshya wins bronze

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka paddler Sakshya Santosh claimed a bronze medal in the girls' U-11 category of the UTT National-ranking table tennis championships in Indore on Thursday.

The Bengaluru girl, who is the current India No. 1 in her age-group and won gold at the national ranking events in Panchkula and Bengaluru, went down to Maharashtra's Aadhya Baheti 8-11, 4-11, 11-6, 4-11 (1-3) in the semifinal.

Sakshya, 10, assured a medal a day earlier with a straight games victory over Delhi's Kaavya Sareen 11-8, 11-3, 11-3 in quarters.

Sakshya Santhosh

Sarr sinks Liverpool as crisis mounts

LONDON, AFP

Liverpool crashed out of the League Cup on Wednesday as Crystal Palace's 3-0 win in the fourth round added to the mounting crisis at Anfield.

Ismaila Sarr struck twice in the first half and Yeremy Pino grabbed the third to condemn Arne Slot's side to a sixth defeat in their last seven games in all competitions.

Slot fielded a weakened team as he prioritised Liverpool's crucial games against Aston Villa, Real Madrid and Manchester City over the next two weeks.

But it was still another embarrassing result for Liverpool, coming hot on the heels of a 3-2 loss at Brentford on Saturday that further dented their spluttering Premier League title defence.

The Reds have lost their last four league matches and trail leaders Arsenal by seven points.

Ismaila Sarr (left) scored a brace in Crystal Palace's 3-0 victory over Liverpool. AFP

Assailed by criticism of their defensive failings and the poor form of blockbuster summer signings Alexander Isak and Florian Wirtz, Liverpool's fall from grace has been stunning.

City survive scare

Holders Newcastle remain on track to retain the trophy after beating Tottenham 2-0 at St James' Park.

Fabian Schar headed Newcastle's opener from Sandro Tonali's 24th-minute corner and Nick Woltemade nodded in the second goal from Jacob Ramsey's 50th-minute cross.

Results: Arsenal: 2 (Nwaneri 57th, Saka 76th) bt Brighton: 0; Liverpool: It to Crystal Palace: 3 (Sarr 41st, 45th, Pino 88th); Swansea: 1 (Franco 12th) It to Manchester City: 3 (Doku 39th, Marmoush 77th, Cherki 90th+3); Wolves: 3 (Arokodare 48th, Wolfe 73th, 90th+1) It to Chelsea: 4 (Santos 5th, George 15th, Estevao 41st, Gittens 89th); Newcastle: 2 (Schar 24th, Woltemade 50th) bt Tottenham: 0.

KODAGU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, MADIKERI
(Government of karnataka -Reg Autonous Institute)
Phone: 08272 298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
Ref:No. ME/2025-26/IND:1441-call-2 Date: 29.10.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATIONS

Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible Manufactures/Suppliers/Authorized Dealers through e-procurement portal GOK. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with EMD for the supply of Consumbles to Teaching Hospital, KOIMS, Madikeri. for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

e-mail: **directormckodagu@gmail.com** **Sd/- Dean & Director, KOIMS, Madikeri**

BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Belagavi. Fax/Phone No: 0831-2470342, 2470257
E-mail: belagavibuda@gmail.com
No: BUDA/E-Auction/Notification/2025-26/2357 Date: 29-10-2025

NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE E-AUCTION OF SITES

Belagavi Urban Development Authority has called for E-Auction of Plots in Scheme No 47, Sahyadri Nagar and Scheme No 40, Kuvempu Nagar. Interested Bidders who wish to participate can login to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for registration. For more details can contact BUDA office.
1) Last Date to Submit Interest to Participate: **29-11-2025**
2) E-Auction Start Date: **01-12-2025 from 10.00 AM.**
3) E-Auction End Date: **02-12-2025 upto 4.00 PM.**
Sd/-
Commissioner
BUDA, Belagavi.
DIPR/Belagavi/1243/Adverto/2025-26

INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO-UROLOGY
(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute -Regd. No. 1052/03-04)
(A Post Graduate Institue of Higher Medical Sciences, Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. Recognised by Medical Council of India)
Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02. Ph: 080-26700527, Fax: 26706777
E-Mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com Website: www.nephrourology.in
No: INU/TND/DDS/09/2025-26 Date: 30.10.2025

NOTIFICATION

Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the the following subjects.
1. Procurement of Drugs, Disposables, Sutures and Misc., Items RC-I.
2. Procurement of Peritoneal Dialysis Fluids.
3. Procurement of Semi Regid Ureteroscope –Mysore Unit.
4. Procurment of Ultrasound Machine – Mysore Unit (Call-II).
Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **01.12.2025 at 5.30 P.M**
1. Pest Control Service.
2. Procurement of Computerized Radiography Films (Call-II).
Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **15.11.2025 at 5.30 P.M**
For any further details please logon to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in/**
Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division,
SJP Annexure, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-4/50/2025-26/4173 Date: 30.10.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from eligible Tenderers **for Renovation and improvement works to Karnataka Bhavan - 2 (Sharavathi) at Sardar Patel Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28642 Approx. value of work: **Rs. 1455.42 lakhs** EMD: **Rs. 14.56 lakhs** (1,00,000/- through e-procurement & balance amount Rs. 13.86 lakhs through B.G., NSC, FDR, Bankers Certificate Etc. may be uploaded). Cost of Document: **As in e-portal.** Period of Completion: 6 Months. Reservation: **Others.** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **04.12.2025 up to 4.30 PM.** Pre-Bid Meeting : **on 12.11.2025 at the above mentioned Office.** Date of opening the Tender: **as per e-procurement guidelines.** Further information and other details can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/3515/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363,
email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&SD/MDY/JJMTENDER/2025-26/1736
Dated:28-10-2025.

Short Term Tender Notification NO-10/2025-26
(Two Cover System) 2nd Call (KPPP PORTAL)

On behalf of Governor of karnataka, The E.E, R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited Short Term tender for Providing FHTCs Works in Mandya Tq in Mandya District (Balance Work) from eligible bidders. Pre-Bid Meeting Dt:04.11.2025 Time:11:00 AM (Place:O/O EE, RDWSD, Mandya), Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids:-05.11.2025 Time:05:00 PM, Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:-06.11.2025 Time:05:05 PM. Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening:-13-11-2025 Time:11:00 AM. Amount Put to tender Maximum: Rs.75.37 Lakhs. More details can be obtained through kppp portal of Govt of Karnataka www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or from this office during working hours. Phone No: 08232-222363.
Sd/-Executive Engineer, R.D.W&S D, Mandya
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/527/2025–26

UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, BAGALKOT.
Office Of The Estate Officer, Udyanagiri,
Near Simikeri, By-Pass Road, Bagalkot - 587 104.
No. : S.P.O./E.O./U.H.S.B./TN-206/2025-26 Date : 30-10-2025

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot is inviting re-tender for the **Scientific Equipments for the use of various Campus of the University.** The interested suppliers are requested to participate in the tender online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. **For more details, Please Contact Ph : 08354 - 230258** and visit the link **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for detailed specification, conditions and schedule of events and notification.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarification : 07-11-2025 @ 14.00 Hrs, 2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders : 14-11-2025 @ 16.00 Hrs, 3) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid : 17-11-2025 @ 11.00 Hrs, 4) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid (if possible) : 19-11-2025 @12.00 Hrs.

All bidders shall get updated with Corrigendum / Addendum received from time to time during the entire tender process by visiting KPP Portal.

Sd/- Estate Officer,
U.H.S., Bagalkot.
DIPR/Bagalkot/363/Manipal/2025-26

IN BRIEF

DYES A thrash DYES B 6-0

▸ The Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports A (DYES A) handed a humbling 6-0 defeat to DYES Ballari during day 16 of the Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results: DYES A: 6 (Shivakumarayya Pujar 3rd, Ananth HM 7th, Aryan Uthappa MT 27th, Akheel Mutagar 31st, Livin CP 47th, Sapan Aiyappa 50th) bt DYES B: 0; Army Boys Sports Company, MEG: 2 (Arsh Ali 12th, Arjun 47th) bt Karnataka State Police: 1 (Umesh Mutagar 15th).

St Joseph's beat Baldwin 4-0

▸ St Joseph's Boys' High School delivered a dominant performance on Day 4 of the Baldwin Shield, defeating Baldwin Co-Education Extension High School 4-0 in the U-14 category on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results: U-16: Baldwin Co-Education Extension High School: 3 bt The Frank Antony Public School: 0 (via walkover); Cathedral High School: 0 drew with Bishop Cotton Boys' School: 0.
U-14: Baldwin Boys' High School: 3 bt The Frank Antony Public School: 0 (via walkover); Vidyashilp Academy: 0 lt to St. Joseph's Boys' High School: 1 (Kayden Antonio 8'); Baldwin Co-Education Extension High School: 0 lt to St. Joseph's Boys' High School: 4 (Renith Vivan 9th, Kayden Antonio 14th, Jonathan Jude 15th, Shreyash Surya 20th); Ryan International School: 1 (Mohith 22th) bt Bishop Cotton Boys' School: 0.
U-12: Vidyashilp Academy: 1 (Yugan 12') drew with The Frank Antony Public School: 1 (Krithik 15th); Baldwin Boys' High School: 0 drew with Bishop Cotton Boys' School: 0.

FIBA Asia convenes

▸ The FIBA Asia Mid-Term General Assembly was held in Bengaluru, bringing together key Asian basketball officials, reports DHNS.

The event also featured the launch of "Basketball Believer," a book on the journey of Dr K Govindaraj, president of FIBA Asia.

Anahat bows out in semis

▸ Teenage Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh's impressive run at the Canadian Open came to an end with a 5-11, 8-11, 10-12 defeat to world No. 10 Gina Kennedy of England in the semifinals, reports PTI from Toronto.

Dalwinder suspended

▸ The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) on Thursday suspended 2017 national champion Dalwinder Singh for using prohibited substance morphine, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Bengaluru FC begin with a win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru FC kicked off their Group C campaign in the AIFF Super Cup with a 2-0 victory over Mohammedan Sporting Club at the PJN Stadium in Fatorda (Goa) on Thursday.

The Blues scored one in each half. Bengaluru FC, who struck a balance between youthful energy and seasoned campaigners, delivered a dominating performance under the Fatorda floodlights, with teenager Taorem Kelvin Singh opening his club account in the 34th minute, while Sunil Chhetri converted a late penalty in the 86th to wrap up a 2-0 win for his side.

Result: BFC: 2 (Taorem Kelvin Singh 34th, Sunil Chhetri 86th P) bt Mohammedan Sporting: 0.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd T20I: Australia vs India (1:45 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network & JioHotstar.**

1st 4-day game: India A vs South Africa A (day 2, 9:30 am). **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

2nd T20I: Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe (5:00 pm). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

3rd T20I: Bangladesh vs West Indies (5:30 pm). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Paris Masters: Quarterfinals (6:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, Sony LIV.**

CRICKET WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

India dethrone mighty Australia

Jemimah's unbeaten ton takes Women in Blue into final

G KRISHNAN
NAVI MUMBAI

'Will to win' has been the slogan of this 13th ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. India were determined to make their home World Cup campaign a memorable one.

Even though they lacked in execution while bowling against the dominating Australia in Thursday's semifinal, local girl Jemimah Rodrigues stayed till the end, batting for nearly the entire innings to seal India their third World Cup final entry.

Rodrigues played one of the most remarkable innings in a run-chase that will put her high in the pedestal of all-time great knocks in Women's ODI history.

Having to bat second at the DY Patil Stadium batting beauty, India put up a record successful chase in women's ODIs. The defending champions Australia amassed 338, courtesy opener Phoebe Litchfield's punishing century and contrasting fifties by Ellyse Perry and Ashleigh Gardner. India replied with 341/5 in 48.3 overs.

If in their previous clash in the league stage, Australia posted a Women's ODI world record successful chase of 331, India gave it back to them in a fitting manner and on a bigger platform to book their third WC final.

Despite the loss of Shafali Verma for 10 and India's highest run-getter Smriti Mandhana for 24 inside Power Play, courtesy a smart catch off a faint edge down the leg side by Alyssa Healy standing up to medium-pacer Kim Garth, India were always in the hunt.

India fought bravely through No. 3 Jemimah's maiden World Cup hundred, a painstaking 127 not out (134b, 14x4) and Harmanpreet Kaur's fighting 89 (88b, 10x4, 2x6). Through their 167-run third-wicket stand, the asking rate was manageable. India were close on the heels of Australia at every stage. And in the back end, India were well ahead of Australia, courtesy Richa Ghosh's six-hitting abilities (26, 16b, 2x4, 2x6).

Luck smiled on Rodrigues and her prayers were answered. On 82, her top-edge sweep off leg-spinner Alana King was dropped by Healy in front of the wicket. India at that stage needed 132 in 105 deliveries with eight wickets in hand.

After Rodrigues reached her third WODI century, her prayers seemed to be answered as she was dropped a sitter by Kim Garth on 106 at mid-off.

There was no stopping India, who reached the final with Amanjot's cut off left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux for four, India winning by five wickets with nine deliveries to spare, much to the celebration of 34,651 spectators in the stands and millions nationwide.

It was India who stopped Australia in the 2017 World Cup final. History repeated itself on Thursday here.

The batting star for Australia was their left-handed opener Litchfield, whose love affair with India, and Mumbai in particular, continued. In three WODIs in Mumbai, though at the Wankhede, she scored two fifties and a hundred in 2023. Against India, she averaged 63.5 in eight innings with one hundred and four half-centuries before Thursday's knock.

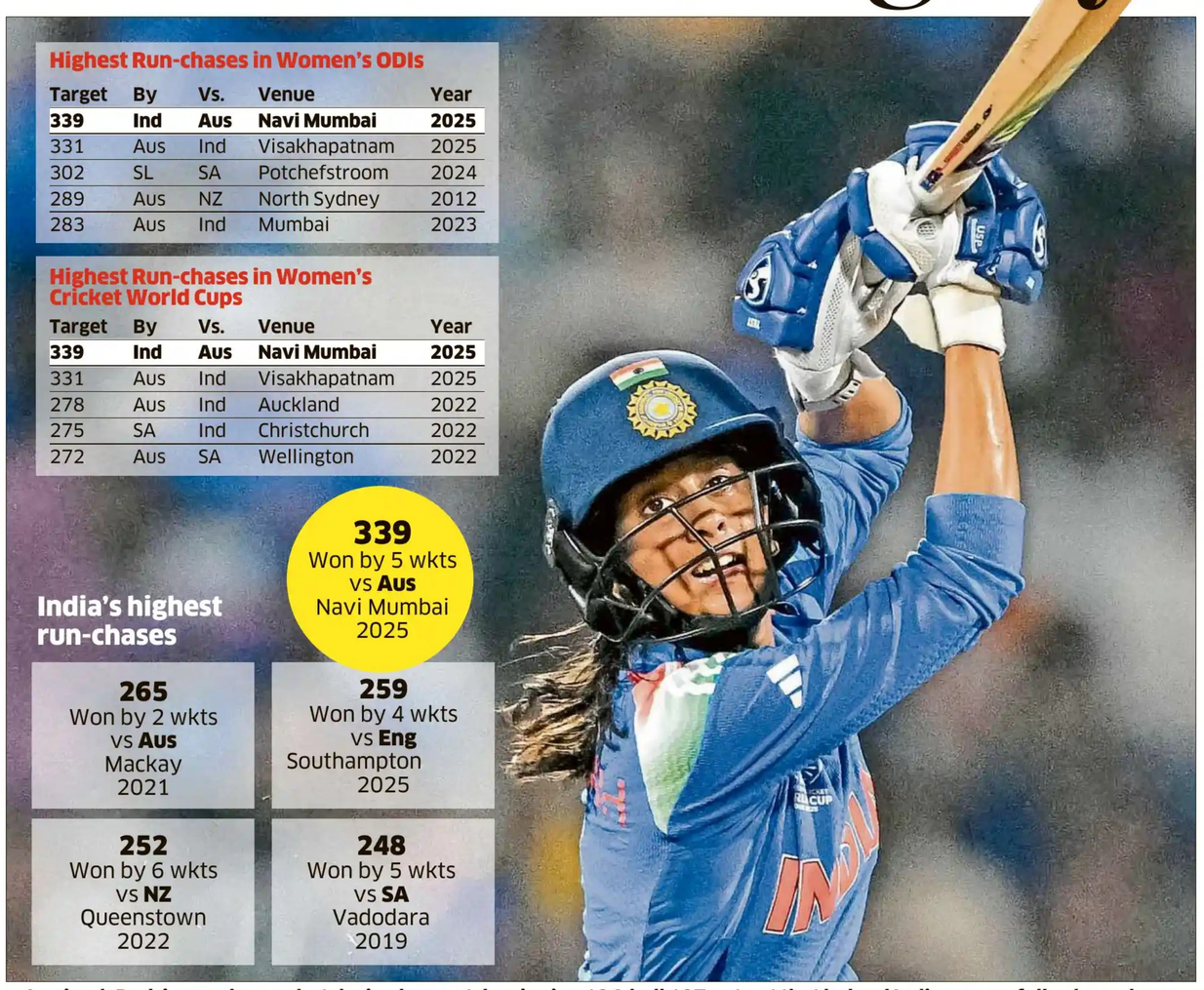
The 22-year-old Litchfield swelled the average to 69.67 after her third WODI hundred (119, 93b, 17x4, 3x6). She became the fourth Australian to score their sixth hundred in this edition out of the 13 individual hundreds.

Choosing to bat, and rightly so, Australia were helped along by some erratic bowling by new-ball operator Kranti Gaud, who conceded nine fours in her opening spell of five overs, conceding 49 runs. Though she dismissed Healy, bowled off an inside edge for five shortly after the rival captain was dropped on two by Harmanpreet at mid-off off Renuka Thakur, Gaud erred in length and bowled short and full often.

Litchfield dominated the 155-run second-wicket partnership with Ellyse Perry (77, 88b, 6x4, 2x6).

When the second-wicket duo was toying with the Indian attack, more so by Litchfield, Harmanpreet ran out of ideas.

Throughout the Aussie innings, Kaur had given one-over spells (12 occasions) with the idea of not letting the women in gold and green to settle down.


Highest Run-chases in Women's ODIs
Target | By | Vs. | Venue | Year
339 | Ind | Aus | Navi Mumbai | 2025
331 | Aus | Ind | Visakhapatnam | 2025
302 | SL | SA | Potchefstroom | 2024
289 | Aus | NZ | North Sydney | 2012
283 | Aus | Ind | Mumbai | 2023
Highest Run-chases in Women's Cricket World Cups
Target | By | Vs. | Venue | Year
339 | Ind | Aus | Navi Mumbai | 2025
331 | Aus | Ind | Visakhapatnam | 2025
278 | Aus | Ind | Auckland | 2022
275 | SA | Ind | Christchurch | 2022
272 | Aus | SA | Wellington | 2022
India's highest run-chases
339 Won by 5 wkts vs Aus Navi Mumbai 2025
265 Won by 2 wkts vs Aus Mackay 2021
259 Won by 4 wkts vs Eng Southampton 2025
252 Won by 6 wkts vs NZ Queenstown 2022
248 Won by 5 wkts vs SA Vadodara 2019
Jemimah Rodrigues plays a shot during her match-winning 134-ball 127 not out that helped India successfully chase down a target of 339 against Australia at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. AFP

India's captain Harmanpreet Kaur scored a crucial knock of 88-ball 89 runs in India's semifinal victory over Australia in Navi Mumbai. AFP

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA		INDIA	
Healy b Kranti	5	Shafali lbw b Garth	10
Litchfield b Kaur	119	Mandhana c Healy b Garth	24
Perry b Yadav	77	Jemimah (not out)	127
Mooney c Rodrigues b Charani	24	H'preet c Gardner b S'land	89
Sutherland c & b Charani	3	Deepti (run out)	24
Gardner (run out)	63	Richa c Garth b Sutherland	26
McGrath (run out)	12	Amanjot (not out)	15
Garth (run out)	17	Extras (B-4, LB-6, W-15, NB-1)	26
King c Ghosh b Deepti	4	**TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 48.3 overs)**	**341**
Molineux b Deepti	0		
Schutt (not out)	1		
Extras (LB-2, W-11)	13		
TOTAL (49.5 overs)	**338**		

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-180, 3-220, 4-228, 5-243, 6-265, 7-331, 8-336, 9-336, 10-338.
Bowling: Renuka 8-0-39-0, Kranti 6-0-58-1, Charani 10-0-49-2, Deepti 9.5-0-73-2, Amanjot 8-0-51-1, Radha 8-0-66-1.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-59, 3-226, 4-264, 5-310.
Bowling: Schutt 6-0-40-0, Garth 7-0-46-2, Gardner 8-0-55-0, Molineux 6.3-0-44-0, Sutherland 10-0-69-2, King 9-0-58-0, McGrath 2-0-19-0.
Result: India Women won by 5 wickets. **PoM:** Jemimah Rodrigues.
India's next match: vs South Africa (final) on Nov 2 in Navi Mumbai.

Solid India look to draw first blood

MELBOURNE, PTI

Formidable India have their tails up as they head to the gargantuan MCG for the second T20I against Australia here on Friday, thanks to the influx of young talent and the return to form of skipper Suryakumar Yadav.

The likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, and Shivam Dube arrived on Australian shores after having redefined the art of T20 batting with their relentless power-hitting, but the lack of big runs from their captain's blade has been a bit of dampener for the team in recent times.

Entering the opener of the five-match series under scrutiny, Suryakumar, however, roared back to form with a 24-ball 39 and his humongous 125-metre six off Josh Hazlewood will stay in memory for long.

However, rain had the last word in Canberra as the match was abandoned with India strongly placed at 97 for one after 9.4 overs, and both Suryakumar and Shubman Gill in the mood to decimate the Australian attack.

Rain is also forecast for Friday in Melbourne but, without worrying about what's beyond their control, the visitors will look to pick up where we they left off in the abandoned series opener.

Going into the second match, what must have gladdened Indian hearts most was the return to form of Suryakumar, as the team continues on its World Cup path with its high-risk, high-reward approach implemented by head coach Gautam Gambhir.

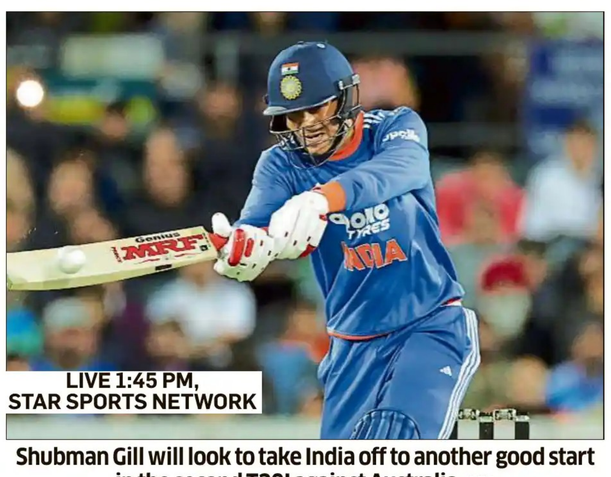
Gambhir wants his team to regularly go for totals in excess of 250, 260, and even if they end up getting bowled out for 120-130 in trying to do that and lose a few matches in the process, he wouldn't mind.

Their explosive batting in recent months is a clear indication that the batters have embraced Gambhir's philosophy, months before the T20 World Cup gets underway in India and Sri Lanka, where the 'Men in Blue' will look to defend the title they won in the Americas last summer.

India didn't get to bowl in Canberra but as far as that department is concerned, they boast of Jasprit Bumrah's class and Varun Chakravarthy's guile, with the likes of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel forming a potent attack that can also defend a small total.

They will, nevertheless, have their task cut out against big hitters Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head, who has troubled India in the past.

Australia's template is pretty similar to the one adopted by the Indian team with focus primarily on playing attacking cricket.



Shubman Gill will look to take India off to another good start in the second T20I against Australia. AFP

Australian teen cricketer Austin dies after being hit by ball

MELBOURNE, PTI: Ben Austin, a 17-year-old Australian cricketer, has died after being hit in the neck during a training session in Melbourne, evoking widespread grief and painful memories of the tragic passing of Phillip Hughes in 2014.

Austin was rushed to hospital in a critical condition after being struck in the neck and the head area by a ball while training for his club at Ferntree Gully in suburban Melbourne on Tuesday.

Austin was facing bowlers in the nets ahead of a T20 match when the injury took place in front of his teammates.

He was put on ventilator after the incident but he succumbed to his injury.

The Ferntree Gully Cricket Club confirmed the player's death on Thursday.

"We are absolutely devastated by the passing of Ben, and the impacts of his death will be felt by all in our cricket community," the club said in a statement.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with his family – Jace, Tracey, Cooper and Zach, his extended family, his friends and to all of those who knew Ben and the joy that he brought."

Cricket Victoria released a statement from Ben's father, Jace Austin, on behalf of the family.

Ben Austin. X

Tribute

India and Australia players wore black armbands during their semifinal as a tribute.

Lunch, tea breaks to be swapped in Guwahati Test?

NEW DELHI, PTI: The second Test between India and South Africa, scheduled in Guwahati's Barsapara and starting November 22, might feature a swapping of breaks with tea taken after the first session and lunch being called during the second session in order to counter the early sunset during the winter months in eastern India.

Unlike Test matches in India, which start at 9:30 am and whose scheduled close of play is 4:30 pm, the game in Guwahati will begin at 9.00 am and end at 4.00 pm.

"There is a possibility that first break will be tea break from 11 am to 11:20 am while lunch could be taken at 1:20 pm to 2.00 pm. The post lunch session will be from 2 pm to 4 pm. In Guwahati, normally the sun sets by 4:15 pm. Swapping breaks is a possibility that could be included in the playing conditions," a BCCI source said.

When an Assam Cricket Association (ACA) official was contacted, he said: "We haven't yet got any official notification from the BCCI."

Shivamogga lad is the brightest hockey hope from K'taka

Sunil has been picked by Kalinga Lancers in HIL

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

When Sunil PB forayed into hockey as a 10-year-old, he wasn't even aware of the existence of such a team sport. He hadn't heard of the game, he hadn't seen it being played anywhere and not in his wildest dream did the little boy from Anavatti village in Sorab taluk of Shivamogga district imagine that one day hockey would define his life.

More more than 11 years later, the second son of daily wage agricultural labourers is shaping out to be one of the most promising young talents in the country. With his steady rise in the junior ranks over the last 12 months, Sunil is another of many Indian athletes who have risen above the hardships of poverty.

"Yeah, who would have thought! I didn't even know what hockey was once upon a time," the now 21-year-old tells *DH*.

"One day, when I was in my fourth grade (at the government school in Tallur village) Sundaresh sir conducted trials to pick students for the DYES Sports hostel in Shivamogga. He made us run two rounds of the school ground, some jumps and checked our weight and height. A few days later I got to know I was selected but I didn't even know for which sport," recalls Sunil.

After some convincing from principal Nagaveni to his apprehensive parents, Sunil set foot in a big town for the first time.

It was at the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) in Shivamogga that the fifth-grader was introduced to hockey under the tutelage of coach Sundaresh before moving to Madikeri sports hostel after 10th grade and later to Sports Authority of India (SAI) sports training center in Shantinagar here.

"I hadn't played Sub-junior or age group hockey. It was only after coming to Bengaluru in 2022 that I played for the Junior state team. People told me it will be hard and nobody will support me, but I have been lucky," says the defender who captained the state boys' team that finished fourth in the Junior Nationals in Jalandhar last year.

That performance catapulted Sunil into the senior Karnataka squad for the National Games early this year, when the team, captained by former international forward and Olympian SV Sunil, won gold which made way for the Shivamogga lad to be selected for the junior national camp.

"One thing led to the other. The first time I entered the SAI South Centre (in Kengeri here) for the national camp, I was more worried about not knowing Hindi than hockey. *Aadre bereavaru mathnadod keli keli, swalpa Hindi kalthe* (slowly I paid attention to others speaking and learnt a little bit)."

His dream of playing in the Indian jersey was realised when he made his debut at the 4-nation tournament in Berlin in June before becoming an integral part of the silver medal-winning Indian side at the recently concluded Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia. In between, Sunil was also picked by the Vedanta Kalinga Lancers for Rs 2 lakh for the upcoming Hockey India League.

"I'm looking forward to what's next. Especially HIL, where there will be so many big players from around the world. More than everything, my parents and elder brother who live a simple life taking care of the half acre land we own are happy that hockey has made me who I'm today," says the final year BA student at Surana College, Bengaluru.

With the added responsibility of carrying forward Karnataka's hockey legacy, the followers of the sport here are keeping a close watch of Sunil's growth.

First up, hopefully, is to see their talent wield his stick at the Junior Men's World Cup beginning in November in Chennai.

Sunil PB (centre) scored his first junior international goal against New Zealand during India's silver medal-winning campaign at the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia. HI MEDIA

Nayar named head coach of KKR

NEW DELHI, PTI: Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday named former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar as their new head coach following the departure of Chandrakant Pandit after a three-season tenure.

Nayar has been associated with KKR since 2018 and is one of the key members of their think-tank, often viewed as someone who held a lot of influence in the dressing room when it came to team selection.

For close to nine months, Nayar was a part of Gautam Gambhir's coaching set-up in the national team but was removed after India's Champions Trophy triumph with Sitanshu Kotak replacing him.

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